

# goal!

W e e k l y

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**WPL SEASON  
PREVIEW**

**FOOTBALL FEATURE  
ON AARON MOOY**

***ANOTHER GW EXCLUSIVE***

# DUNKERLEY FACES FFFV BOARD BATTLE

**TASK TO HEAL RIFT LOOMS AHEAD**

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# Jets land former Socceroo

The Newcastle Jets have significantly bolstered their playing roster by signing former Qantas Socceroo Kasey Wehrman. The highly credentialed central midfielder will join the Hunter-based club for the next two seasons of the Hyundai A-League.

Boasting numerous appearances for Australia at U-20 and U-23 levels, including at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, the 32-year-old has accumulated 12 full caps for the Qantas Socceroo, the last coming in 2006 in an international friendly against Ghana at Loftus Road, London.

Hailing from central Queensland, Wehrman started his career in the National Soccer League (NSL) with the Brisbane Strikers in 1995, where he was crowned NSL U-21 Player of the Year during a Championship winning 1996/97 season. Shortly after, he crossed the Nullarbor to join Perth Glory in 1999 for two year stint that yielded further silverware.

This success on the domestic stage soon brought about a move to Europe, with Norwegian side Moss FK winning the race to secure Wehrman's signature. The rugged midfielder enjoyed two seasons at the Mellos Stadion, but with Moss being relegated at the conclusion of 2002 season, a move to Tippeligaen mainstays Lillestrom SK beckoned.

In four and a half seasons with The Canaries, Wehrman amassed an impressive 81 appearances, but eventually transferred to Frederikstad FK during the 2007 season. It was certainly a successful spell with the Ostfold-based side, with FFK finishing runners-up in the league to Stabaek IF the following year.

In 2009, a loan deal saw the experienced midfielder shift to the Norwegian capital to join glamour side FK Lyn Oslo. However, a horror season resulted in the unthinkable for the Gunnar Halle-led side, and relegation to the Adeccoligaen soon followed, opening the way for Wehrman's return to Australia.

Jets CEO John Tsatsimas expressed his delight at having captured the former Qantas Socceroo, particularly after the recent signings of Jeremy Brockie and Ruben Zadkovich.

"Naturally we're thrilled to announce that we're bringing Kasey into the club from next season," he said.

"The level of experience and quality that he possesses is without question, and there is no doubt that he is the kind of player that our young squad can learn from. So we look forward to welcoming him to Newcastle when the squad resumes pre-season training in May."

"Kasey is the third new signing for the club within the space of a week, so certainly we're excited about the forthcoming season and given that the vast majority of the squad has already been settled we believe that the future is looking good," said Mr. Tsatsimas.

# Fraser resigns from FFA

Football Federation Australia (FFA) has announced that Archie Fraser has resigned as the Head of the Hyundai A-League.

The FFA proposes to continue to draw on Fraser's knowledge and experience, based out of his home state of Queensland, with a particular focus on the Hyundai A-League clubs in Queensland and ensuring momentum is maintained with North Queensland Fury.

Fraser, who has worked for FFA for more than a year, has been commuting between Sydney and his family home on the Gold Coast and has undertaken extensive travel with his position.

FFA CEO Ben Buckley said the proposed new arrangement will enable him to move back to Queensland with the capability to continue important strategic and operational work for FFA in the key Queensland market.

"I want to thank Archie for his out-

standing contribution in the role of Head of Hyundai A-League since joining us last February," Buckley said.

"It has been both a very challenging and very successful year for the A-League with the expansion to a ten team competition, and whilst presenting some challenges, it underpinned a growth of over 300,000 in additional spectators.

"Archie has brought to his role a high level of commercial acumen as well as a deep understanding of football and club operations."

Buckley said the FFA would now begin the search for a new Head of A-League.

In response to media reports, Buckley said the Gold Coast United licence had not been terminated.

"We have been talking to the club for some time about options around restructuring to further its development as a viable long term operation," Buckley said.

"Discussions are continuing and in-

clude looking at how we can work together to attract further sponsorship and investment and better ways to engage local community support for the club.

"In the mean time the club has confirmed that it is business as usual."



Archie Fraser

# New Junior boys and girls teams wanted!

With the Qantas Socceroo heading off to play in the world cup in South Africa, 2010 is set to be a big year for football and Football Federation Victoria (FFV) encouraging everyone to come play the best sport in the world!

Vacancies currently exist is several of the junior boys and girls

leagues and although team registrations are closed, FFV will allow new entries for teams that will fill these vacancies only. If your club is interested in entering a new team please contact FFV on 9474 1800 for more information on where vacancies currently exist.

# Double coup for Glory

The Perth Glory Football club is pleased to announce that veteran Jamie Harnwell has signed a new deal with the club for 2010/11 season.

And in a double coup for the club, Rangers legend Ian Ferguson has also agreed terms to join Dave Mitchell as an assistant.

Having played 235 games in eleven seasons for the Glory, Harnwell is now set to over-take Bobby Despotovski (241 games) as the club's games record holder.

"It will be a huge thing for me. Bobby is a good friend of mine, a fantastic player and if I get the record it will be a real treat.

"I didn't want to end up the way I finished this season. I was very disappointed in how my body went and how

we exited the finals.

"I've got some big goals for next season. I want to finish top goal scorer again and try and get a hat-trick of those and obviously win the Hyundai A-League," Harnwell said.

Harnwell, a former Glory captain is also the club's third top goal-scorer with 40, behind Despotovski (113 goals) and Damian Mori (84).

"He's a winner and he epitomises what the club is all about," Mitchell said.

Ferguson, a 10-time Scottish League champion with Rangers, joins the Glory after guiding North Queensland Fury to seventh place in the 2009/10 Hyundai A-League season.

"He's a good professional and he's got good contacts.

"He was a champion over there, a cult hero at Rangers.

# Zadkovich arrives in Newcastle

The Newcastle Jets have announced the signing of versatile midfielder Ruben Zadkovich on a three-year contract. The announcement comes less than a week after New Zealand international Jeremy Brockie penned a two-year deal with the Hyundai A-League 2007/08 Champions.

Zadkovich, 23, comes to the Hunter-based club after completing a two-year stint with English Football League Championship side Derby County, where injury unfortunately limited his playing time. Prior to this, the one-time Qantas Socceroo enjoyed an extended spell with Sydney FC, where he devel-

oped a reputation as one of the most versatile and dynamic young players in the domestic game.

Having initially risen through the ranks of English clubs Queens Park Rangers and Notts County as a teenager, Zadkovich represented Australia extensively at both U-20 and U-23 levels, scoring the nation's only goal at the 2008 Beijing Olympics in the process.

The laid-back Bulli-born boy revealed that he was simply delighted to have returned home to play in the Hyundai A-League.

"It was a good opportunity here. It's a good, solid team here and it's a great place, Newcastle, and I've worked with

Branko before so I know what to expect, so I'm really happy to be here," he said at this last week's press conference.

Zadkovich also explained that he still harbours ambitions of playing national team football for Australia once again, but for the time being is content to be back playing regularly in the Hyundai A-League.

"I had a small taste of being in Socceroo camps and playing in that game against China in Sydney, and that was a brilliant experience. So I definitely have goals to get back into that squad but for now it's just one step at a time and focusing on being here at Newcastle."



# Dunkerley faces FFV board battle

**ANOTHER GW EXCLUSIVE**

By Craig MacKenzie

**FOOTBALL Federation Victoria's board of management has become a legal battle zone with bitter personality clashes and calls for Football Federation Australia to intervene.**

All this amid the greatest crisis ever to beset the Frank Lowy-inspired national club competition with A-League CEO Archie Fraser resigning late last week and Gold Coast United teetering on the brink of collapse.

In the past few days it has emerged that FFV board members have broken the board's charter of keeping matters in-house by feeding information to the media and leaking financial documents in a bid to undermine the standing of president Tony Dunkerley.

At least three board members have been murmuring about a lack of confidence in Dunkerley for some weeks now but lately the dissidents have taken to conferring with club administrators and journalists about their feelings.

"If someone has broken the charter then I'm extremely disappointed," said Dunkerley, speaking exclusively to GW. "It means that relationships that I thought we had, and I can only go on what you are putting before me, are not what I thought they were."

The timing of the board upheaval is significant as the positions of board president and two directors are open for election either late this year or early next year.

In keeping with FFV's constitution the election must be held within five months of the end of the federation's financial year which is 31 October.

**The electorate consists of two representatives from each of the 12 state zones and six representatives from the various standing committees.**

**However, not all those positions are currently filled and if the elections were held today just 21 stakeholders would be eligible to vote.**

One disgruntled stakeholder told GW that the vacancies in Central Zone (2 vacancies), Eastern (1), North East (1), South East (1), Southern (1) and Western (1) will suit the incumbents come election time.

"It's part of a policy of control. It's also a clear example of the failings of the Strategic Plan. Imagine not being able to even fill those positions."

One board member suggested that Dunkerley "was holding on for the World Cup bid announcement later this year" and if the bid proves successful "he'll resign and indicate to the world what a great job he's done."

But Dunkerley has vowed to take up



FFV president Tony Dunkerley (left) and Victoria's Minister for Sport, Recreation and Youth Affairs, James Merlino.

the fight by announcing his intention of standing for re-election.

"I want to re-stand as I believe we have started the biggest change in FFV's history and it's going to take another term to bed in these changes.

"There have been some great achievements under my leadership of the board with the help of board members, FFV employees and lots of people. I'm pedantic about the implementation of our Strategic Plan and I want to keep working towards achieving its aims."

Dunkerley pointed to the increase in the number of participants, especially among girls, the zonal system in summer giving players the opportunity of continuing their development and an improvement in the federation's relationships with local and state government and FFA.

"I know it's corny to say so but I like to think that we put the V back in FFV." But Dunkerley's immediate challenge is to reunite his board and he didn't reject claims of disharmony.

"Yes, there are differences of opinion but believe me nothing gets left unsaid in the board room.

"We've made so many major changes that not everyone agrees with them but our discussions are robust and positions are well argued.

"Since I have been president people

have accused me and my board of trying to do all sorts of things. Clubs have accused us of trying to do away with the Premier League among other things but in every instance their claims have been unfounded."

GW has been told that two board members are embroiled in a defamation wrangle that has erupted in the past three weeks but Dunkerley was dismissive of the issue.

"If there is any defamation involved then it's a private matter and not an FFV matter," he said.

The split in the board is so acrimonious that we've been told that FFA has been contacted and asked to appoint a mediator to deal with the matter.

Should FFA choose not to intervene then that could be used as a trigger for legal action amid explosive claims of "oppressive conduct, not following due process and cases of defamation."

The unrest reached boiling point over the manner in which FFV's 10 March annual general meeting was conducted. There are claims that no questions were allowed to be tabled concerning the federation's financial statement for the year ending 31 October 2009.

Those claims have also been made by zone representatives and other stakeholders in what is looming as the great-

est administrative crisis to hit the sport for years.

The financial statement was being scrutinised by accountants and a law firm as we went to press as a precursor to producing a formal document demanding a response to a number of questions.

The unrest reached boiling point over the manner in which FFV's 10 March annual general meeting was conducted. There are claims that no questions were allowed to be tabled concerning the federation's financial statement for the year ending 31 October 2009.

**Last Friday morning Goal! Weekly contacted FFV to elicit a response to all of the above matters. During the course of our conversation we let it be known that we had a leaked copy of the full financial statement for 2009. Until then the only financial information posted on FFV's website was the**

concise statement contained at the end of the 2009 Annual Report.

While the concise statement provides a succinct overview of the federation's financial position and is itself the subject of a report by independent auditors Grant Thornton it is not as illuminating as the full financial statement which we were led to believe was available to those who attended the March AGM.

The full financial statement was posted on the FFV website on Friday afternoon.

It records revenue of \$3,794,587 gleaned from registration fees and \$1,181,652 generated by affiliation and team entry fees.

Fines and appeals raised \$446,727 last year, part of that figure coming from the controversial imposition of fines on junior players who were sent off during the season.

State and development squads raised \$450,123 for the year ending 31 October, a figure which included payments from state representatives and an FFA subsidy to the National Training Centre's girls' program.

**State squads are largely self-funding and some junior players paid up to \$2000 a head to represent Victoria at national championships.**

While Dunkerley confronts the task of healing the major rift in his board another battle is looming for the federation. It's one that could prove every bit as controversial as it involves threatened legal action by referees.

And when I woke up last Friday morning I was thinking that it had been a slow news week.

## More FFV moves afoot

WHILE there's plenty of movement in the FFV boardroom there's also been a fair bit of movement among staff at the federation's St Kilda Road headquarters. Liam Bentley has left his role as one of two competitions coordinators and switched to the Talented Player Development department where he is the program coordinator. That enabled results assistant Daniel Maakaroun to be elevated to competitions coordinator. Mariela Pena has switched to the role of events manager and Michael Pocklington has been promoted to fill Pena's previous role as competitions manager.

"We have a policy of promoting from within which is a good staff retention strategy," said Kerry Harris, general manager business operations.

Laura Piekarski and Lyn Pickering have resigned and their respective roles have been filled by Ben Gross (club development coordinator) and Rhonda Snijders (accounts receivable officer).

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# Boca in turmoil as coach resigns

Abel Alves has resigned as Boca Juniors coach following a loss that dropped one of Argentina's most popular clubs into 19th place in the 20-team Clausura tournament.

The move comes following a 3-0 loss to Colon. Boca confirmed Alves' resignation Friday. He is the third Boca coach in less than a year to leave the club.

Alves was the reserve-team coach when he took over in January after Alfio Basile quit following a loss to River Plate. Basile took over for Carlos Ischia, who left 10 months ago after Boca was knocked out of the final 16 of the Copa Libertadores.

Meanwhile, Rio de Janeiro suffered its heaviest of rain in history postponing giant Flamengo's Copa Libertadores match with Universidad de Chile to Thursday (Friday AEST).

The match itself saw Universidad de Chile right back Matias Rodriguez score a stoppage-time equaliser for a 2-2 draw that keeps the Chileans top of Group Eight in the Libertadores Cup. "The U" have eight points from four matches, one more point than Brazilian champions Flamengo, playing without striker Adriano who is nursing a back injury. Chile's Universidad Catolica have three points and Caracas FC of Venezuela two.

The match, played some of the time in torrential rain, was postponed from Wednesday due to flooding at the Maracana as storms that have caused mudslides and killed about 100 people wrought havoc in Rio de Janeiro this week. Argentines scored Universidad de Chile's goals with midfielder Walter Montillo heading them into a 1-0 half-time lead from Jose Contreras's right cross and compatriot Rodriguez securing a surprise draw with a powerful shot as the Flamengo fans were celebrating a victory. Midfielder Michael equalised in the 67th minute from Vagner Love's pass and right back Leo Moura appeared to have settled the match in Flamengo's favour when he put them 2-1 from the edge of the box up with eight minutes remaining. Colombian champions Independiente Medellin hauled themselves back into the Group One reckoning with a 1-0 home win over Cerro Porteno of Paraguay.

Corinthians of Brazil lead the group with 10 points from four matches followed by Racing of Uruguay with seven. Medellin now have six from five games and Cerro Porteno one. Striker Luis Arias, whose penalty a minute earlier was saved by Ezequiel Medran, put Medellin ahead in the 55th when he took a through ball from Cesar Valoyes to finish off a quick counter-attack started by substitute playmaker Nelson Barahona. The Paraguayans' midfielder Rodrigo Burgos was sent off in the 68th minute.

Speaking of Paraguay, its National Team shall receive a boost with the naturalisation process for former Colo-Colo and current Bundesliga stalwart with



Flamengo and U. de Chile in action after overcoming the torrential down-pour that played havoc in Brazil.

Borussia Dortmund, Argentine-born Lucas Barrios. His mother is Paraguayan-born thus enabling him to be eligible for citizenship. Jonathan Santana of Serie A side Fiorentina is also born in Argentina and has successfully played for the albino-rojos after gaining his citizenship. Coach Gerardo Martin expressed his delight to count with his availability for World Cup selection in South Africa this June and accompany forwards Roque Santa Cruz, Benfica's Jose Cardozo, Nelson Aedo Valdez whom his teammate at Dortmund and replace the unfortunate Salvador Cabanas whom has recovered to a gunshot wound to the head but remains very much doubtful for an appearance in South Africa for the Paraguayan team that will play in the group stage with Italy, Slovakia and New Zealand.

Meanwhile in the domestic leagues, Uruguayan goalkeeper Alexis Viera saved two penalties and converted one in America's 3-2 win over Millonarios in their Colombian "clasico" at the weekend. Penarol extended their record start in Uruguay with an 11th consecutive victory to move within one win of the Clausura title.



COLOMBIA

America's Uruguayan goalkeeper Alexis Viera saved two penalties and converted one as his team beat Millonarios 3-2 at home in Cali in their "clasico". Sergio Galvan Rey scored twice for 11th-placed America including their 86th-minute winner.

Both teams had a player sent off in the first half, America defender Julian Caravali in the 36th minute, midfielder Omar Rodriguez of Millonarios in the 44th. Champions Independiente Medellin beat Cucuta 3-0 and opened a three-point lead over Deportes Tolima and Real Cartagena. Tolima crushed 10-man Cortulua 5-1 with a Franco Arizala hat-trick after the home side's Ezequiel Palacio had been

sent off in the 54th minute with the score 1-1. Former leaders Real Cartagena went down to their second consecutive defeat, 4-1 at home to La Equidad.



URUGUAY

Penarol beat Cerrito 3-1 at the Centenario to extend their record winning run to 11 matches and go within one victory of lifting the Clausura championship. They face second-placed Fenix next weekend. Ten-man Rampla Juniors, whose defender Javier Benia was sent off in the 40th minute, beat Nacional 1-0, the champions' second consecutive defeat.



CHILE

Universidad de Chile beat Union Espanola 4-3 with a hat-trick by Uruguayan striker Juan Manuel Olivera, who took his tally to 11. Former Colo-Colo defender Miguel Aceval converted two penalties for Union.. "The U" lead the championship with 22 points, five more than title holders Colo Colo, who drew 0-0 with Universidad Catolica in one of the country's 'big three' derbies.



PERU

Uruguayan Miguel Ximenez hit a hat-trick as Sporting Cristal crushed Sport Huancayo 4-1, while 10-man Alianza Lima and Universitario drew 0-0 in the big derby in the capital. Alianza midfielder Joel Sanchez was sent off after an hour. Leaders Cesar Vallejo beat Juan Aurich 3-2 away for their seventh win in a row. Colombian Mayer Candelo scored the winner in the 87th minute and was sent off in the 90th. Cesar Vallejo opened a two-point lead over San Martin, who drew 1-1 away to Jose Galvez, and Sporting Cristal.



PARAGUAY

Uruguayan Gregorio Perez marked his debut as Libertad coach with a 2-1 win over Guarani following Argentine Javier Torrente's sacking last week over poor league results. Cerro Porteno beat Tacuary 1-0 to open a five-point lead over second-placed Rubio Nu after 12 matches in the Apertura. Veteran Roberto "Toro" Acuna, 38, scored his second consecutive goal for Rubio Nu in a 1-1 draw with Olimpia.



VENEZUELA

Caracas FC hung on for a 1-0 win away to Yaracuyanos after Jaime Bustamante was sent off 11 minutes into the second half. Edgar Jimenez scored the only goal after half an hour. Caracas went top of the Clausura, two points ahead of Deportivo Italia and Zamora, after 10 matches.



ECUADOR

Barcelona retained their one-point lead over bitter arch-rivals LDU Quito in the Ecuadorean derby after holding them in an exciting but goalless duel in the capital.



ARGENTINA

Colombian striker Marco Perez scored twice as Gimnasia-La Plata halted Independiente's charge towards the Argentine Clausura championship on Wednesday. Perez scored midway through each half to help Gimnasia to a 2-1 victory over Independiente, whose midfielder Federico Mancuello hit an equaliser five minutes before halftime.

Independiente, who had been unbeaten in seven matches, have 27 points from 13 games, three points ahead of second-placed Godoy Cruz who visit Racing Club on Thursday. Title holders Banfield beat San Lorenzo 2-0 to hand their new coach Sebastian Mendez, appointed after Diego Simeone resigned at the weekend, a losing start. It was the eighth defeat in 13 games for San Lorenzo, one of several ailing giants of the Argentine game including Boca Juniors, River Plate and Racing Club. Midfielder Roberto Battion put Banfield ahead after 12 minutes, heading home Walter Erviti's corner, and striker Ruben Ramirez converted a penalty two minutes before halftime. Banfield are joint third with Argentinos Juniors, away to Rosario Central on Thursday, on 22 points.

Struggling giants River Plate lost 1-0 at home to Newell's Old Boys who scored from a lucky rebound six minutes into the second half through Paraguayan Jorge Achucarro, who was falling over as he lobbed keeper Daniel Vega. River

have lost their last four matches without scoring. They have the third worst attack in the division with eight goals in 13 games.

Former Argentine forward Ariel Ortega was brought back into the team by coach Leo Astrada after a long absence due to the veteran player's drinking problems and he was one of the better players on the pitch. However, the River faithful in the stands were baying for the players' blood as they walked off heads bowed at the end, some palming their hearts demanding the players show more passion and fight. Tigre striker Carlos Luna scored twice in their 3-1 win over bottom team Atletico Tucuman on Tuesday to join Mauro Boselli of Estudiantes at the top of the scoring chart with nine. Gimnasia's Perez is next with seven.

Boca Juniors' dirty linen on the other hand was hung out on Thursday when goalkeeper Javier Garcia had a row with coach Abel Alves after being told he was dropped for the match against Colon, media reported. The ailing giants, Argentina's most popular team, then lost 3-0 to the side from Santa Fe to remain in the bottom three with the worst defence in the Argentine Clausura championship conceding 27 goals in 13 games.

Boca, four-times South American champions between 2000 and 2007, thought they had turned a corner when they emphatically beat arch enemies River Plate 2-0 at home in their big derby, the "Superclasico", two weeks ago. Since then Boca have crashed to three defeats, shipping nine goals and scoring two, with Alves's job on the line and negotiations in progress for a successor, sports daily Ole (www.ole.com.ar) said.

Veteran striker and captain Esteban Fuertes put Colon ahead in the 15th minute and midfielder Lucas Bertoglio added two more. Boca's Colombian defender Breyner Bonilla was sent off in the 89th for a bad lunge at Bertoglio. Godoy Cruz fluffed their chance to catch Independiente at the top when they drew 0-0 at Racing Club. They are joint second two points behind the leaders with Argentinos Juniors, who won 1-0 at one-from-bottom Rosario Central.

Estudiantes captain Juan Sebastian Veron was sent off after half an hour at Velez Sarsfield but his team hung on for a 1-0 win that puts them three points behind the leaders. Striker Gaston Fernandez appeared to use his hand to help himself to the early goal from Veron's free kick in the fourth minute. Velez midfielder Victor Zapata was sent off midway through the second half.

Independiente lost for the first time in eight matches on Wednesday when Gimnasia-La Plata's Colombian teenager Marco Perez scored twice for a 2-1 upset win. Tigre striker Carlos Luna scored twice in their 3-1 win over bottom team Atletico Tucuman on Tuesday to join Mauro Boselli of Estudiantes at the top of the scoring chart with nine. Gimnasia's Perez is next with seven.

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# Barca beats Real in La Liga Clasico



**SPAIN**  
After Lionel Messi's 'PlayStation' performance in the Champions

League mid-week, the Argentinean helped Barcelona to a vital 2-0 victory over La Liga title rival Real Madrid to send them three points clear at the summit of the Spanish Primera Division.

Messi's hot streak of form, which has seen him again compared to Diego Maradona, continued into the El Clasico clash, with the striker's 40th goal of the season in all competitions putting the Spanish and European champions on track to victory, before Pedro Rodriquez added a second

The win ended Madrid's 12-match winning streak and 100 per cent home record, but also gave the Catalan giants a better head-to-head record if the clubs should finish on level pegging.

Meanwhile, Sevilla moved into pole position for the final Champions League qualification spot with a late comeback to win 2-1 against Malaga in the Andalusian derby.

Malaga opened the scoring through Felipe Caicedo, but goals from youngsters Cala and Lolo gave the side a precious three points in the chase for the lucrative Champions League spot.

Elsewhere, Villarreal staked their claim for a Europa qualifying spot with a 1-0 victory over Sporting Hiji, while Primera strugglers Tenerife and Real Valladolid shared the spoils in a frustrating goalless draw for both sides.

Xerez look destined for relegation after a 1-0 defeat at home to Getafe.



**ENGLAND**  
With five games remaining in the Premier League season, the long awaited fate

of Portsmouth Football Club was confirmed on Saturday when they were relegated to the Championship.

Pompey's demise had been a matter of 'when, not if' for much of the second-half of the season with the club destined for the drop long before West Ham's 1-0 win over Sunderland on Saturday.

But the result mathematically ruled out survival for Avram Grant's team.

The club incurred a nine-point penalty on 17 March after they entered administration on 26 February, which leaves the team on 14 points, ten points behind second-last Burnley on 24.

But Pompey's off-field discrepancies were matched by their on-field performances, with the side managing just six wins and slumping to 22 defeats this campaign – a recipe for relegation – which sees them return to the Championship after seven seasons in the top flight. The club has recovered slightly off the pitch, with the club's administrators holding talks with 'several parties' in recent weeks and finally appointing a new chief executive this week.

The club also had the chance on Sunday to make amends for their poor form throughout the league campaign when they tackled Tottenham in the FA-Cup



Lionel Messi caps off a splendid week by opening the scoring against Real Madrid in the El Clasico, and strengthening Barcelona's claim to retain the La Liga.



**GERMANY**  
The fight for the Bundesliga crown took another twist on Saturday when

leaders Bayern Munich failed to take advantage of Schalke's defeat at Hannover as they were held to a draw against Bayer Leverkusen.

On the back of his Champions' League thunderbolt which Manchester United out of the competition, Arjen Robben netted from the penalty spot to give the German giants the ascendancy, but Atruro Vidal equalised to dent Munich's title aspirations.

But while Munich slipped up, second-placed Schalke were thumped 4-2 against relegation-threatened Hannover which mean the league leaders moved two points clear of their closest rivals.



**FRANCE**  
Bordeaux's hopes of retaining their French Ligue 1 crown took a major

blow after they suffered a damaging 3-1 defeat on the road against Paris St Germain.

Bordeaux's hopes of victory were dented on the half-hour mark when they lost keeper Ulrich Rame for handling outside the box and the home side took the lead from the resulting free-kick before running out convincing 3-1 winners.

However, fellow title challengers Montpellier failed to take advantage, slipping to a 2-2 draw against Le Mans.

At the opposite end of the table, Grenoble were relegated after the combination of their 4-0 trouncing by Toulouse and St Etienne's 2-0 victory at Sochaux,

while Lens' commanding 3-0 home victory nudged Boulogne ever closer to the drop.



**ITALY**  
Serie A leaders Inter Milan were on the verge of losing their place at the summit of the table on Sunday night after they were held to a 2-2 draw with Fiorentina.

Fiorentina took the lead after just 11 minutes, but second half goals from Diego Milito and Samuel Eto'o gave the home side the advantage going into the last 10 minutes.

But Fiorentina equalised with eight minutes remaining which left Inter only two points ahead of title rival Roma, who were in action against Atalanta on Sunday.

**BUNDESLIGA**

	P	GD	PTS
1 Bayern Munich	30	30	60
2 Schalke 04	30	21	58
3 Bayer Leverkusen	30	25	54
4 Borussia Dortmund	30	13	52
5 Werder Bremen	30	26	51
6 VfB Stuttgart	30	7	47
7 Hamburg	29	15	45
8 Eintracht Frankfurt	30	-4	44
9 Wolfsburg	29	5	43
10 Mainz	30	-7	41
11 Borussia M'gladbach	30	-10	37
12 TSG Hoffenheim	30	-3	34
13 Cologne	30	-9	34
14 Nuremberg	29	-19	28
15 VfL Bochum	29	-21	28
16 Hannover 96	30	-22	27
17 SC Freiburg	30	-28	25
18 Hertha Berlin	30	-19	22

Bayer Leverkusen 1-1 Bayern Munich  
Hannover 96 4-2 Schalke 04  
Hertha Berlin 0-1 VfB Stuttgart  
Mainz 1-0 Borussia Dortmund  
TSG Hoffenheim 0-2 Cologne  
Werder Bremen 4-0 SC Freiburg

**EPL**

	P	GD	PTS
1 Chelsea	33	54	74
2 Man Utd	33	50	72
3 Arsenal	33	41	71
4 Man City	32	24	59
5 Tottenham	32	26	58
6 Liverpool	33	21	55
7 Aston Villa	32	12	54
8 Everton	33	8	50
9 Birmingham	33	-4	46
10 Stoke	32	-3	42
11 Blackburn	33	-15	42
12 Fulham	32	-2	41
13 Sunderland	34	-8	38
14 Wolves	33	-23	32
15 Bolton	33	-25	32
16 West Ham	34	-16	31
17 Wigan	33	-34	31
18 Burnley	34	-36	27
19 Hull	33	-38	27
20 Portsmouth	33	-32	14

Hull 1-4 Burnley  
West Ham 1-0 Sunderland

**SPL**

	P	GD	PTS
1 Rangers	32	51	76
2 Celtic	32	26	63
3 Dundee Utd	32	12	58
4 Hibernian	33	4	50
5 Motherwell	32	2	48
6 Hearts	33	-7	44
7 St Johnstone	32	-6	38
8 Hamilton	33	-14	36
9 Aberdeen	32	-13	34
10 Kilmarnock	33	-18	29
11 St Mirren	33	-13	28
12 Falkirk	33	-24	28

Falkirk 2-1 St Mirren  
Hamilton 4-1 Hibernian  
Hearts 1-0 Kilmarnock

**SERIE A**

	P	GD	PTS
1 Inter Milan	33	33	67
2 Roma	32	22	65
3 AC Milan	32	21	63
4 Palermo	32	6	51
5 Sampdoria	32	2	51
6 Napoli	33	4	49
7 Juventus	32	1	48
8 Parma	33	-6	46
9 Fiorentina	33	7	46
10 Genoa	32	0	45
11 Bari	32	0	43
12 Cagliari	32	0	40
13 Chievo	32	-3	38
14 Catania	32	0	38
15 Udinese	32	-8	35
16 Bologna	32	-13	35
17 Lazio	32	-6	34
18 Atalanta	32	-11	31
19 Siena	32	-23	26
20 Livorno	32	-26	26

Fiorentina 2-2 Inter Milan  
Napoli 2-3 Parma

**LA LIGA**

	P	GD	PTS
1 Barcelona	31	58	80
2 Real Madrid	31	55	77
3 Valencia	30	16	56
4 Sevilla	31	9	51
5 Mallorca	30	12	48
6 Villarreal	31	5	46
7 Athletic Bilbao	30	0	45
8 Getafe	31	3	44
9 Deportivo	30	-6	42
10 Atletico Madrid	30	2	40
11 Almeria	30	-7	37
12 Sporting Gijon	31	-6	37
13 Osasuna	30	-9	34
14 Espanyol	30	-15	34
15 Real Zaragoza	30	-16	32
16 Malaga	31	-5	31
17 Racing	30	-14	31
18 Tenerife	31	-32	26
19 Valladolid	31	-23	25
20 Xerez	31	-27	23

Malaga 1-2 Sevilla  
Tenerife 0-0 Valladolid  
Xerez 0-1 Getafe

Real Madrid 0-2 Barcelona  
Villarreal 1-0 Sporting Gijon



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**Serbia**  
League leaders  
Red Star continue  
their impressive  
run with another  
easy win. Mladi Radnik was the  
culprit in a 4:1 thrashing.

In front of their home fans the red and whites did not disappoint, opening the scoring just 7 minutes into the match through Jevtic but a huge mistake by goalkeeper Stamenkovic put the relegation battlers back into the game but only for a few minutes as Brazilian Kadu netted a penalty for the home side to restore the lead for Red Star. Going into the second half the red and whites went in the stronger side with attack after attack and they were rewarded for their constant bombardment when Jevtic scored his second in the 70th minute. There would still be time for a another goal as Savio scored in the 90th minute.

Jao was the hero for Napredak netting both goals in their 2:0 win over fellow strugglers Hajduk. Spartak got back to winning ways overcoming BSK in a tight affair 2:1 as Simovic scored the decisive goal in stoppage time.

Metalac defeated Javor 1:0 and the points were shared in Smederevo as the home side fought out a goalless fraw against Borac.

In midweek action the Serbian national side made up of domestic players defeated Japan 3:0 in an impressive display which goes to prove how much depth the side has. Vojvodina's Dragan Mrdja scored two and Partizan midfielder Nemanja Tomic scored a 30 yard free kick.

  
**Croatia**  
Cibalia are losing  
ground of league  
leaders Dinamo  
after a 2:1 loss to  
Hajduk which now means the team  
from Split is only three points be-  
hind second place Cibalia.

Dinamo defeated feeder club Lokomotiva 1:0 thanks to Sammir's 5th minute penalty. Gerc netted three goals in Rijeka's 5:1 win away to Medjimurje. Sibenik move to third following a 3:1 win against strugglers Zagreb while Karlovac lost ground after sharing the points with Varteks at home.

In midweek Cup action a 51st minute Senad Ibricic strike put Hajduk through to the final with a 1:0 aggregate win against arch rivals Dinamo. Hajduk will face Sibenik in the final as Varteks did not take full advatage of a red card to Sibenik who won 2:0 in Varezdin to progress to their first final and what looks more impressive is a certain Europa League spot.

  
**Bosnia**  
Borac and  
Zeljeznicar share  
top spot for an-  
other week as  
both side won comfortably. Borac  
defeated Slavia 3:1 while Zeljo  
scored a late win awa to Prijedor  
with goals in the 89th minute to  
Beslija and 90th to Bekric. Saraje-  
vo move into third following a 3:0  
win against mid-table Leotar.

Borac face Zeljeznicar in Sarajevo next week in what will be a title deciding battle. Both sides have played excellent this season and are unexpectedly at the top of the league. although there is still eight rounds remaining this will be a vital match for both sides.



Mrdja stakes his claim



Jevtic netted a double

BOSNIA		
	P	Pts
1Borac Banja Luka	22	44
2Zeljeznicar Sarajevo	22	44
3Sarajevo	22	37
4Siroki Brijeg	22	37
5Velez Mostar	22	36
6Zrinjski Mostar	22	35
7Leotar Trebinje	22	30
8Travnik	22	29
9Sloboda Tuzla	22	27
10Olimpik Sarajevo	21	27
11Celik Zenica	21	27
12Zvijezda Gradacac	22	27
13Slavija Sarajevo	22	26
14Rudar Prijedor	22	25
15Laktasi	22	22
16Modrica Maxima	22	21

CROATIA			
	P	GD	Pts
1 Dinamo	24	+52	56
2 Cibalia	24	+21	45
3 Šibenik	24	0	43
4 Hajduk	24	+20	42
5 Karlovac	24	+11	42
6 Slaven Belupo	24	+3	38
7 Osijek	24	+8	36
8 Lokomotiva	24	0	36
9 Rijeka	24	+3	30
10 Zadar	24	-11	30
11 Varteks	24	-11	25
12 Inter Zaprešić	24	-12	24
13 Istra 1961	24	-14	24
14 Medimurje	24	-24	22
15 Zagreb	24	-12	20
16 Croatia Sesvete	24	-34	14

SERBIA			
	P	GD	Pts
1. Crvena zvezda	23	46:12	61
2. Partizan	22	45:12	56
3. Spartak	23	28:19	39
4. OFK Beograd	22	28:24	36
5. Vojvodina	22	32:21	33
6. Metalac	23	19:25	33
7. Jagodina	22	24:24	29
8. Javor	23	17:18	29
9. Smederevo	23	21:25	28
10. Borac	23	16:28	27
11. Napredak	23	23:28	24
12. Hajduk	23	22:34	23
13. Rad	22	25:32	22
14. BSK	23	18:28	22
15. Mladi radnik	23	16:29	22
16. Cukaricki	22	17:38	18



Ibricic celebrates

Q&A with Red Star Belgrade Manager, Ratko Dostanic

During his career as a footballer Ratko Dostani played as a defender for Yugoslavian Timok Zaje ar and Rad, and French clubs - FC Bourges, SM Caen, Le Mans Union Club 72, Rodez AF, Red Star 93, SO Châtellerault and EDS Montluçon. Dostani started his coaching career in season 1995-96 as a player-manager of the lower-division French club EDS Montluçon. Until 2003 he was an assistant to the Serbian coach Slavoljub Muslin at PFC Levski Sofia and Red Star Belgrade. For a short period of time he was the head coach of FK Obili . Dostanic is now the Head coach of red Star Belgrade, and fields a Q&A with GW's Alex Milic.

What are the challenges that lie ahead for you and the club?

The goal is winning trophies. That is to win the league and cup, It's going to be hard but Red Star loves challenges.

You where appointed as coach of youth system. What will happen

with that position now?

I am still in charge of both duties, We will see at the end of the season which one I will resume.

Are there any youth players that you will promote to the first team?

For now no. The youth team will provide new talents in a years time, for now the most talented players are at FK Sopot (Serbian 3rd Division) where they are loaned out to get some valuable experience.

You said you want an attacking Red Star. Has the club got the right players and what kind of system/tactic will you use?

I believe in these players, and only time will tell how much i can work on them and if they can play attacking football.

Many fans have been critical with the appointment of you as manager because Petrovic took the team to first place in the league. What can you tell the fans?

I am a Red Star soldier, I will answer to all the tests that lie ahead of me.



Stimac, now helping Zagreb.

The difference between the Serbian League and Bulgarian League? They are allot similar. The Bulgarian clubs have more money which means more quality foreign players, while in Serbia there is more home

grown talented players.

Are you going to be the long term coach? What are the plans/goals you have set out?

My plans are all concerning Red Star

but in the long term we will talk about that after May 15th when the season has finished.

How have the players reacted to the departure of Petrovic and your arrival?

The atmosphere in the change rooms is great. The change has certainly hurt them but we talked and added that every success this season is also the success of Vladimir Petrovic and that in a big way. He is a Red Star legend that has given allot to the club and will continue to give.

This season in Australia a Czech coach Vitezslav Lavicka was the manager of Sydney FC and he won the league and cup. How much do you know about football in Australia? Maybe one day you will coach a club in Australian League?

I dont know much but if my managerial waters take me to Australia I will happily work there. We will see.

Thanks for spending time With Goal! Weekly.



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# Branko Buljevic, striker and Socceroo star

**Branislav 'Branko' Buljevic was one of the key players in the Socceroo squad which reached and played in the World Cup finals in 1974.**

His coach, Rale Rasic, thought he was one of the most gifted and respected players ever to wear the green and gold and it was a toss-up between John Kosmina and Buljevic for the leading striker position when Rasic selected his best-ever Australian team.

Born in Split in 1947 he joined OFK Belgrade and turned out in several games in the Yugoslav first division before he migrated to Australia where he joined Footscray JUST in 1968. He made an immediate impact scoring twice in a two-one defeat of George Cross at Olympic Park on 14 July. The JUST squad that year included Marko Fode, David Fearn, Roger Handrick, Tom McPherson, Billy Rice, Cedo Cirkovic, Frank Barbazza, Zvonko Colovic, Branko Buljevic, Slobodan Zoraja, Milan Mihailovic, Bogdan Zlati, Milos Adamovic and Sandor and Andrew Kazi. Keeper Jim Milisavljevic joined the following year along with Milenko Rusmir.

In 1969 Buljevic and Slobodan Zoraja led the JUST attack to the first of three Victorian State League championships in five years. As Rale Rasic pointed out that was the year Neil Armstrong landed on the moon! JUST was never out of the top four between 1969 and 1976.

Buljevic's form resulted in his being selected for Victoria in 1970 and he played 22 matches for the state between 1970 and 1976, the most of any player in that period. Rasic chose Buljevic to go on the Australian tour of Asia in 1972 and he scored twice against Indonesia in his debut. In the final qualifying matches against South Korea in 1973, Buljevic scored a critical goal with a powerful header from a cross by Col Curran. At the time the Socceroos were two-nil down and even team manager John Barclay thought that there was no way back. Ray Baarth's equalizer secured the draw, which led to the third match and

Jimmy Mackay's unforgettable goal. But Buljevic had turned the tide in Seoul.

Over the next three years Buljevic was a fixture in the Australian team amassing 30 caps and scoring 11 goals, two of which were against Benfica in 1975. But the high point of his international career was in achieving qualification for the World Cup in 1974 and he took part in all three matches in West Germany. Laurie Schwab described his performance against East Germany in the opening game of the Australian campaign as phenomenal.

He terrorised defences with his close control and powerful shooting. For some reason the Sydney fans did not take to Buljevic, feeling that he had been preferred to local players. Unlike some of the other Socceroos of that era, Buljevic did not move to a New South Wales club to keep his name in front of the media.

Buljevic stayed with JUST until March 1977 scoring 77 goals for the club, when Fitzroy United Alexander bought him for what was then a new Australian transfer record of £12,000 (\$24,000). That was more \$2,000 more than Western Suburbs paid for the Australian captain Peter Wilson.

In the National League Buljevic continued his scoring exploits, netting nine goals for Alexander which finished third in its first season at the top level, behind only Sydney City Hakoah and Marconi. His time at Alexander was not without issues and he threatened to walk out on the club after being dropped by coach Tony Boggi in 1978, but retracted later.

In 1980 he moved to South Melbourne Hellas under John Margaritis and his first game was against his old club in the Greek derby and it ended scoreless. By 1981 Buljevic had netted 41 goals in all, a total which was equal to that of Edi Krncevic up to that point. In 1983 he was being used sparingly as substitute by Rale Rasic.

In 1985, Buljevic returned to JUST for a final fling in National League before retiring from top class football.



One for the coaching manual as Branko Buljevic dispatches a classic volley.



Left: Branko Buljevic about to shoot as Peter Ollerton tries to close him down and South Melbourne team-mate, a young Alan Davidson watches.

*All photographs:  
Les Shorrock collection.  
Deakin University Library.*

Right: Clash of the titans. Charlie Yankos and Branko Buljevic in aerial collision.







# KAT'S CORNER

With Peter Katholos

## MESMERISING MESSI

What a week of football! The quality of the Champions League quarter finals games was absolutely fantastic. What a performance by Barcelona. And that man, Lionel Messi, produced one of the greatest individual displays in Champions League history. Not only scoring four great goals but he also must be admired for his general play, which was breathtaking. Maradona told us that he is the closest player to him, and how true this is turning out to be!

Personally, I think we witnessed one of the best performance by a team and an individual, and this particular Barcelona team must be among the best the world has ever seen. Don't get me wrong, I'm not getting carried away here, they have assembled one of the best squad of players at any given time - they are hungry, quick thinking, technically very gifted, and can all pass the ball with precision and to top it all off, have the best player in the world in unstoppable form!

Also, I noticed that the attacking players from Barcelona are shutting the opposition down early with plenty of pressure, forcing to lose possession. It speaks wonders that Barca could have easily scored 6 or 7 goals against a team

like Arsenal, who themselves are considered the English Premier League's best football playing side.

While watching this game I consider the notion from a coaching point of view and wonder how the opposition coach will try to stop them. Of course, in football everything is possible, but it will be very interesting to see how the semi-finals unfold.

## ITALIAN JOB?

One could possible point out that Arsenal gave Barca too much room and although they applied zone marking, that was not the answer on this occasion.

I bet Jose Mourinho, coach of Inter Milan and drawn to meet Barca in the semi-final, will most likely opt to sit back and try to shut down early, with maybe the key players man marked to Italian perfection. Let's see what they can do then. Messi will have to be at his very best to get past the Italian defenders that are renowned as the best and most discipline in the world. It will be a test in more ways than one, and let's hope Messi withstands the constant barrage of attention over 90 minutes better than what Zidane and Drogba has shown in the past.

Some massive games for Barca coming thick and fast, and it will be interesting to see how they go with against their arch rivals Real Madrid this weekend in the Clasico. But, I bet they won't be giving them as much space as Arsenal did. I find Madrid a lot more tactically structured off-the-ball this season. That's a typical Pellegrini trait with a squad he did not build, remembering that Valdano made the squad with his power in the club. In any case, it will be a cracker!

Can Barca win the Champions League? Absolutely! But, in my opinion the game against Inter Milan is the real final.

## UNITED THEY FALL

In the other game, Bayern Munich knocking out Manchester United was a surprise. Leading 3-0 at one stage and everyone thought it was safe to presume the tie was all over. I thought Rafael's first yellow card showed his inexperience and naivety for such a big match, as he had to continue marking Bayern Munich's most dangerous player, Ribery, long after that incident was gone. Surely, Sir Alex Ferguson should have substituted this young player, but instead choose to gamble, and as it turned out he then received a second yellow card.

Australian international with 25 caps, Australian Player of the Year, winner of 4 NSL championships, 3 NSL Cups, 557 first grade games, 97 goals from 1976-1996. Played for St George, Sydney Olympic, Apia, Marconi, Melita Eagles and Larissa (Greece). Rated as one of the most technically gifted players ever produced in Australia. Now involved with player development and player management. [www.technikfootball.com](http://www.technikfootball.com)



Nothing messy about this lad.

With United reduced to 10 men the pressure mounted, and Robben scored that gem of a goal to put Bayern through courtesy of the away goal rule. I could not believe Sir Alex did not react. Goes to show, that he is only human after all,

and we all make mistakes.

Great football. Great excitement.

See you all next week!

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# THE KATSA

With George Katsamboukas



## J WALKER SCOREBOARD 1-5

## PARADISE LOST

The A-League goings on of late give new meaning the term 'trouble in paradise'. Speaking of Paradise, Gold Coast United is the latest A-League team to potentially fall on financial hard times, or in Katsa Parle'; No Money, No Honey! With murmurings of their El Supremo, Clive Palmer, possibly withdrawing his hard earned from the club.

Jesse Fink, on [www.thetheworldgame.com.au](http://www.thetheworldgame.com.au) gave Palmer and absolute man-gling for his efforts with this newly created Team in the A-League, and cited the following achievements:

- Lowest crowd: Gold Coast - 2,616
- Lowest average crowds: Gold Coast - 5,392
- Lowest crowd aggregate: Gold Coast - 75,493
- Worst flogging: Gold Coast - Round 12, 0-6 to Wellington Phoenix
- Dumbest decision: Gold Coast - Capping crowds at Skilled Park
- Most short-sighted decision: Gold Coast - Firing Paul Okon

Fink then continued to extend his man-gling to the other two Queensland teams, North Queensland Fury and Brisbane

Roar, stating that they have also failed to deliver the goods.

And for his hat-trick he then took a swipe at ex-Hyundai CEO, Archie "the numbers are a little bit wee down" Fraser, who recently quit his post in the Top Job, to be then given a FFA consultants role with the FFA" looking after the Queensland market".

"The FFA proposes to continue to draw on Fraser's knowledge and experience, based out of his home state of Queensland, with a particular focus on the Hyundai A-League clubs in Queensland and ensuring momentum is maintained with North Queensland Fury."

He has also been appointed as Interim CEO of the Fury, after the FFA injected 1.3 million to bail them out of their financial problems.

In a further swipe at Fraser, Fink continued along with:

"How could the FFA get things so spectacularly wrong and why is it dispatching the man who had ultimate responsibility for the mess, outgoing A-League boss Archie Fraser, to sort it out?"

All fine and dandy thus far, however how can Fraser be CEO of one team, and then consult to the other two teams in Queensland?

Furthermore, where is the FFA receiv-

ing their funds from to bailout these cash strapped clubs from?

Mark and Co from the House of Darebin, recently moved to the Boulevard of Broken Dreams, please tell me that the FFV is not kicking in the shandies to the FFA, via club and player registrations, that are then used to bail out these non-financially performing FFA clubs.

Will be interesting to see if these financially struggling A-League Clubs - you can add Adelaide United to the list as they have been run by the South Australian Football Federation over the last couple of Seasons - will survive long term.

## TAKING THE MICK

Over to Katsa's Mailbag we go, where Mick from Manchester writes.

Dear Katsa, I hear that Australia is a great country, full of J Walker, Women and Song.

I was thinking of coming over for a year, and as such would like to find a club to play for.

Financially I am not asking for much, as I will need the money that I earn from playing football to pay for my living expenses.

I am currently playing for a Division 6 team and would be willing to come over

and play for a club if they will pay me \$800 flat per week.

I understand that clubs may not want to pay me a flat wage, as many base their pay structure based on results, but please rest assured that I always give 100% week in, week out.

Could you please speak to some of your Club Powerbroker mates and see if I can get fixed up.

Also while you are at it, could you also recommend some good pubs to go to as I don't mind the odd ale or ten, and while you are at it, could you arrange for me to be picked up from the airport, and have also arrange for somewhere for me to stay till I get on my feet.

Also a Roast Dinner to be ready for me upon my arrival will also be great, and while you're still at it, could you also buy a car for me? I promise to pay you back after I get paid wages from my new Club.

Cheers, Mick

Until Next Week,

This is Katsa - just as you have known him. And remember, keep your friends close and your Club Powerbrokers closer



New signing Jack Hawk-ins came to the club with a reputation as an artful type of player who could dodge the odd tackle ot two.





# BOO'S WORLD

With Mark Boric



## Jury's Out

**I am a proud Victorian. I believe that Bill Lawry is a great man. Carn the Victory. Go Melbourne Storm, go the Bushrangers. I'll even throw in a "Go the Melbourne Rebels!" in the rugby union even if they only have half a team and have never played a game.**

Now that I have declared this bias, let me add this, that what I write about the National Under 13's Championships is not based on this bias in any way whatsoever.

For those unaware, those Championships conducted last week, had a new bonus points system introduced. But not bonus points for scoring a set amount of goals. No bonus point for winning a penalty shoot-out after a drawn game. These bonus points had nothing to do with anything tangible that could be drawn from the result of a game. No, these bonus points were awarded by a special panel which judged the teams on their technical ability.

Subjective judging makes most of the

sports that employ it a joke. You only have to look at the recent Winter Olympics to see that. There is no place for it in football. End of story, never ever. All it does is leave results open to accusations of bias.

The upshot is that New South Wales Metro 1, who lost to both Victoria Metro and Northern NSW, managed to head the standings, ahead of the unbeaten Victoria Metro. It seems contradictory to me that if you are promoting development ahead of results, that awarding bonus points should even come into the equation. Leave judging to the figure skaters, FFA please.

## Number Crunch

Check out the following scores: 5.5, 5, 4, 2, 2. What do they relate to? Each week there are six senior VPL games. These figures are for the number of games in each round which have had line-ups, bookings and scorers fully entered into the FFV ResultsVault system. Not quite up to scratch is it?

And with the bookings not up there

for all to see, don't be surprised should the lack of transparency lead to yet another suspended player taking the field debacle and/or cover-up.

## Archie Bargy

I don't use pro wrestling slang enough in this column, so I'll point out that Archie Fraser has done more jobs than the Brooklyn Brawler. In wrestling to job is to go out and be the loser, something that Steve Lombardi aka the Brooklyn Brawler did for much of his career. For Archie, jobs seem to be something you need to keep changing. Can he not just pick one and stick to it?

## Ethnic Dynamite

In last week's tribute to Laurie Schwab, I noticed one of Craig MacKenzie's likely winners in capitals was ST ALBANS DINAMO. Inadvertant error, or just a part of the homage to a man who insisted on using many clubs' original monikers in the face of various VSF purges into ethnic names?



Another nil-all draw at the recent National Championships...



# KRNCEVIC'S CRUNCHLINES

With Eddie Krncevic

Australian soccer legend, Eddie Krncevic represented the Socceroos 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium.

**Greetings football fans and welcome to another dose of Krncevic's Crunchlines.**

## SPEED STARS

Yet again, we were privy to another outstanding segment of UEFA Champions League football during the week. The high level of quality and standard of play reiterated the point that it is by far and away streets ahead of any other competition in the football world.

The competitiveness and the desire to win displayed on the field exemplifies exactly why it is held in such high esteem amongst its peers. If I may be so bold as to suggest, I think one of the biggest and most obvious differences between say, the A-League and the Champions League, is the tempo the games are played. I think you would have to agree that A-League matches look almost pedestrian in comparison to Champions League games.

The pressing and pressure performed by United in the first half, and the same done again by Bayern in the second half, was absolutely phenomenal. I can't recall the last time the home side was forced to boot the ball in order to clear the danger at the 'Theatre of Dreams'. The overall passing, movement and positioning by both sets of players was of an outstanding level, and the match in general was a great contest for any youngster to absorb.

Our European counterparts appear to

play as though their lives depend on it. Of course, there are major differences between the two (HAL and UCL) – the rewards of achievement, environment, skill factor – to name but a few, but the impression still remains that here in Australia our competition, on the surface of it, lacks the same determination and desperation of work-rate and state of play that we witness in the UCL.

This is by no means an attack on our very own A-League, on the contrary, nothing could be further from the truth, but it is merely an observation. In all due respect to our domestic competition, I am fully aware that we have to be realistic with the level that we find ourselves at, the differences in football culture surrounding us, and the resources at our disposal.

The definition of 'skill' is one of executing a task well and making it look easy, compounded with the ability of completing that task at speed. And that is probably wherein the answer lies. It is unquestionable that players in the UCL are elite calibre players and some of the best in the business who can make a task look easy and execute it with precision and at frightening speed when under an intense amount of pressure.

The players appear to already know what they are going to do with the ball even before it reaches them. And simply put, that is because they can automatically recognise and are able to deal with certain situations, or passages of play,

which they have become familiar with after being taught over time on the training field.

## COSTLY SET PIECE

Arjen Robben scored a magnificent goal for Bayern Munich that knocked Manchester United out of the competition on the away goals rule. A superfluous strike worthy to win any tie. However, it could have been avoided.

Firstly, why was Robben free to make the strike? Why wasn't anyone marking him, or at the very least, close enough to him to put him off making such clean contact with the ball?

Furthermore, there was a defender on the far post, but why wasn't there a defender on Van der Saar's near post? With a high proportion of goals scored from set-pieces these days, this is unforgivable.

I'm not sure if it was a tactical error on Sir Alex Ferguson's behalf, or a lapse in concentration by the United defence, but it certainly proved costly and a place in the semi-finals has now gone begging for the English club.

It goes to show that errors in organisation can happen at the highest level, but again, you need the quality and precision of a world class player, like Robben, to steer the ball home in the fashion he did.

With Messi running riot against Arsenal, Morinho's boys doing the job against CSKA, and Lyon taking care of fellow countrymen Bourdeaux, we are now left



German engineering thanks to a Frenchman and a Dutchman.

with some very interesting semi-finals.

No doubt, Barca is the hot favourite to retain the crown, but if anyone can pop them off, then I wouldn't be surprised if the 'Special One' has some tactical tricks up his sleeve. I can't wait.

## CAMP FUN

I was actually away in Mt Gambier during the week coaching at a school holiday soccer camp hosted by the Professional Football Academy. Nearly 160 football mad kids, aged between 10-17, had a fantastic time playing football and

making friends. I'm sure that for most of these budding football stars the PFA camp will be a memorable part of their football education. Sixteen year old Attila Offli rates a special mention amongst the pool of talent, and if he sticks to it, he can certainly be one player earmarked for the future. Apparently, Offli is on Hume City's books but has also spent nine months with Panathiniakos in Greece. I'd like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Tolis Marangoudis, a most passionate football man, who did a fantastic job in organising such a tremendous event.




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# NRL

## Parramatta Eels V Canberra Raiders

Parramatta Stadium  
Monday, 12 April  
7:00pm AEST

### Match odds

Parramatta 1.39 *betfair*  
Canberra 3.45 *betfair*

### Margin

Parramatta between 1-12 points 3.05 *centrebet*  
Parramatta over 13 points 2.24 *centrebet*

Canberra between 1-12 points 5.00 *sportingbet*  
Canberra over 13 points 10.00 *sportingbet*

**Last played:** Parramatta 18 defeated Canberra 6 – 28/03/2009 @ Parramatta Stadium, Sydney, NSW.

**Head to Head:** This ground: Parramatta 8 – Canberra 5.

After last weekend's shock 11-0 loss to the Sharks, punters are beginning to lose faith in the Eels – possibly a touch premature when you consider how slow Parramatta came out of the blocks last season.

According to Daniel Anderson, his players "have the desire and trying as hard as they can." For their part, the raiders blew a 12-point half-time lead over the Wests Tigers at Canberra Stadium last weekend, losing 35 – 22.

Coach David Furner couldn't hide his disappointment after his players capitulated in the second half and the Raiders slumped to their third defeat of the season.

The home ground advantage should be enough to get the Eels on the winning list. With both teams in poor form it's hard to envisage a blowout result.



### The Tip

Take Parramatta to win between 1-12 points @ 3.05 *centrebet*.

## ACL CHAMPIONS LEAGUE PREVIEW

goalweekly.com

goal! Weekly

# Boogaard ready to make most of ACL opportunity

By Dom Rinaldo

**Adelaide United FC defender Nigel Boogaard plans to take his chance with both hands after being told he would make his first start for the Reds in their AFC Champions League match against the Pohang Steelers on Tuesday.**

At the airport with the rest of United's squad preparing to depart for Hong Kong en route to Seoul and then Pohang, the former Central Coast Mariners defender confirmed he had been given the nod by Coach Aurelio Vidmar to replace the suspended Iain Fyfe in United's defence for the match at the Pohang Steelyard.

"I got the call up from Viddie and hopefully I can go in there and do a job," Boogaard said.

"Fyfe has been in there from the start and has really done well so hopefully I can get in there, fill his shoes and cement a spot in the starting team."

It has largely been a waiting game for Boogaard since he arrived in Adelaide eight days out from the opening game of the ACL, the versatile defender coming in at a time where the Reds had just won their final two matches of the Hyundai A-League and were seemingly settled across the back. Then with United winning its opening three games of the

ACL, Vidmar continued to stick with the winning formula, before an opening presented itself when Fyfe received his second yellow card of the competition in the away loss to Sanfrecce, resulting in a one match ban.

While he is delighted with the team's results in the early part of the Group Stage, Boogaard admits it has been tough waiting on the outer, but he knows it is all part of the territory that comes with professional football and being part of a side that is experiencing success.

"A little bit but that's all part of professional sport," the 23 year old said on if it has been hard watching the majority of United's opening four games from the bench.

"You've got to take the good with the bad and it's how you can get through the bad parts and go from there."

"I knew I just had to get my head down and train, and the boys have been doing well and getting results, so I've just been knuckling down at training and hopefully I can cement a spot now."

Coming in for his run on debut in a tough match away from home against the reigning ACL champions who are also vying for top spot in Group H could be seen as throwing the 23 year into the deep end, but Boogaard is not a stranger to the ACL.

He made five out of the six appearances with the Mariners in their 2009 campaign and knows full well that the heat will be on from the start against the Steelers as they aim to knock United off of the top rung on the table.

"Obviously they're a quality side, they proved that in the last (Asian) Champions League campaign and it is going to be a tough assignment for the boys going over there, but hopefully we can get the result we need to go through into the next stage," Boogaard said.

Despite his last competitive 90 minute hit out going back to February 12 in the final round of the Hyundai A-League season, Boogaard is confident he can go the distance and play his part in containing the Steelers' front line.

"Match fitness is probably the biggest thing. Hopefully I can keep that intensity through the game and keep up with the pace of the game," Boogaard said.

United enters the match with the Steelers with three previous victories over the K-League giants, including the opening match day win at Hindmarsh Stadium, but Boogaard states the Reds know they will be up against it on Tuesday night.

"The boys were happy with the result we had with them in the first round but you can't underestimate them at all, they're a quality side with good play-

ers, so the boys are definitely switched on and have got their minds on the result that we need."

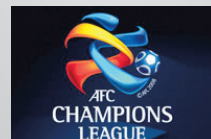
Young midfielder Joe Costa, who has made a successful recovery from a knee injury, has taken Fyfe's place in the Reds' travelling party.

### ACL Match Day 5

Melbourne Victory v Beijing Guoan (China)  
Wed Apr 14 7.30pm  
Etihad Stadium  
Melbourne

Pohang Steelers v Adelaide United FC  
Tuesday 13 April 8:00pm (ACST)  
Pohang Steelyard Korea

Both matches broadcast on Fox Sports.



Adelaide United surprised Pohang Steelers last time they met in the ACL winning 1-0 thanks to a Matthew Leckie goal. Can the Reds repeat the feat on Korea? Photo: ADAM BUTLER.

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# Let's hear it for the Mooy

By Kieran Pender

**While playing for the Bolton Wanderers Reserve side, Aaron Mooy may not get the plaudits he deserves.**

Many Australians wouldn't know his name, he doesn't get to play every week in televised games, and he has to take on other reserves teams on freezing Monday nights. But Mooy is one of the future Socceroos developing his game in a top European League, honing his game in an effort to eventually play for the Bolton first team, and hopefully one day for the Socceroos in a World Cup.

Mooy joined Bolton Wanderers ahead of the 2007/08 season from Westfield Sports High School, a school which also produced ex-Bolton, current Adelaide United defender, Scott Jamieson. As Mooy puts his story, "I was spotted playing in Australia by a Bolton Scout and was asked to come on trial, and from there I signed."

Bolton Academy boss Peter Farrell last year told the media that "He came over here when he was 14 years of age after being spotted in Australia. He got his education here at Bolton School, but he is a tremendous footballer."

He continued to heap praise on Mooy, saying that while "...He still needs to work on his game, like the times when he hasn't got the ball, ability-wise, he oozes class. It doesn't surprise me that he has been selected for his country."

This selection for Australia has come both in the form of Youth team selection, and more recently a senior squad call up. Mooy was selected for the Young Socceroo World Cup squad, and despite a strong build up, the team failed to excite at the FIFA U20 World Cup, losing all three games.

While Mooy was disappointed with the result, he still felt there were positives. "I was disappointed (not to progress) as I thought we had a good enough



Australia's Aaron Mooy, centre, celebrates after scoring a goal against Brazil, with his teammates Sam Munro, left, and Kofi Danning during their U-20 World Cup group E soccer match at the Port Said Stadium, in the city of Port Said, northeastern Egypt, on Saturday, Oct. 3, 2009

squad to go past the group stage, but we just didn't perform at our best and it cost us. However it was good to see that we were trying to play the right way, keeping the ball on the ground and moving it around, so that was a positive."

Mooy was unexpectedly called up to the Socceroos squad for a friendly against Ireland last August, and although

he didn't make the match day team, he still thoroughly enjoyed the experience. "I was over the moon when I found out (I'd been called up). It was something I didn't expect and it was a great experience."

He was also the star of the prestigious Terborg Toernooi youth tournament in early 2009, earning player of the tour-

namment award, in a tournament featuring youth sides from Ajax, Liverpool, Valencia. Young Socceroos Head Coach Jan Versleijen was full of praises for Mooy after the tournament, telling the press that "To have Aaron Mooy named as player of the tournament is a great achievement for Aaron in a very famous and high standard tournament."

Unsurprisingly, Mooy enjoyed the tournament, in which the Young Socceroos finished third. "It was a great experience playing at the Terborg tournament as there were so many good teams and players involved in the tournament."

Mooy has also been in good form for the Bolton Reserves, and starred for the side in their victory against Manchester United Reserves in the Manchester Senior Cup. He hit back for Bolton after United's Paul Pogba had opened the scoring, and Mooy also proceeded to score the winning penalty in the penalty shootout.

Scoring twice against such a highly regarded youth side was a great achievement, and Mooy was pleased with the game. "It was a great win that day and the team played really well, so overall I was very happy."

Mooy has featured prominently for the reserves team this season, and will be hoping to soon make the step up to the senior squad, or move out on loan. While Mooy believes a move on loan to a lower division side would be beneficial, he is wary of moving to early. "It would be a great experience to go on loan, but I've just got to concentrate on playing for Bolton at the moment."

While moving to a foreign country at such an early age must have been hard, Mooy has found it easier to adapt because of the other young Australians currently playing in England. "Dean Bouzanis (Liverpool youth keeper, currently on loan at Accrington Stanley) and I hang out every week, I'm always in Liverpool with him! It's great that he's not too far away, as we've been hanging out since we were young."

Mooy is hopeful of his chance to play in the Bolton first team soon, but he definitely isn't getting ahead of himself. "All I have to do is keep trying to play my best, keep my head down, and keep trying to improve my game!"

## Player Profile | Bonnyrigg White Eagles' Vuko Tomasevic

**Club:** Bonnyrigg White Eagles  
**Position:** Defender  
**Previous Clubs:** Marconi, APIA, Northern Spirit, Central Coast Mariners

**How do you feel about your move back to the BWE?**

It's great to be back at BWE. There have been many things that I've enjoyed since coming back. It's great to be working with Cliff Pointer and Brian Brown again - the club have great supporters and the backroom staff are fantastic. The club has really given the players a lot of support and made the atmosphere around the place buzz.

**Clubs ambition?**

The club have recruited a lot of new players this year, I think out of our current first grade squad there are only 5 players from last year. The club wants success, and everyone that has joined Bonnyrigg this year wants success and wants to win, so we definitely want to challenge for the championship.

**Biggest influence in your career?**

Definitely my family - Mum, Dad, Wife, Brother and Sister - they have been very supportive and understanding of my commitments with football, so to me that was my big-

gest influence.

**The difference between the A League and the NSW Premier League?** There are a few differences. Obviously the A-league is full-time and professional. The game is quicker, more technical and also tactical. In saying that, there are few players in most NSW Premier League teams that can comfortably make the transition to the A-league.

**Best moment in your career?**

I would say playing youth internationals at U17 and U20 level.

**Worst moment?**

Probably missing games through injury/suspensions.

**Describe the playing group at BWE?**

The club have spent a lot of money on bringing quality players to the club, and as a player you want to win everything, so there is an air of excitement. We have a good group of boys and were still getting to know one another. There is definitely pressure on us to perform.

**Favourite team when growing up?**

Red Star Belgrade



**World Cup moment that comes to mind?**

Australia vs Italy.

**What are Australia's chances at the World Cup?**

Anything is possible. I think the last World Cup showed that.

**Serbia? Who will you support when they play against each other?**

hahaha I'll be sitting on the fence, but I think it'll be a great moment and I can't wait for the game. Hopefully it's a good one!

**Most memorable goal you have scored?**

Free kick for Northern Spirit back in 2002/03 NSL finals series.

**Fav ground you have played at?**

Suncorp in Brisbane.

**Best league in the world? why?**

I'd say the German. Every game seems to have a great crowd, and they play exciting football.

**Your strengths?**

I reckon I can read the game fairly well. I try to be fairly vocal so i can organise things around me; strong in a tackle and in the air.



**Weaknesses?**

I'm not the quickest of players

**Personal goals for this season?**

Give 100% effort every game and work hard every game.

**In your spare time?**

I'm a physiotherapist by qualification, so I'm fairly busy most days. I try and spend the rest of my time with my wife!!

**What are the challenges that lie ahead?**

Getting Bonnyrigg to the Grand Final and winning the Minor Premiership!!!





With Leroy Robinson



# Englishmen Abroad

By Leroy Robinson

**In the light of poor results in the UCL in midweek, questions in the media have centred on whether English superiority in Europe is over. A combination of Messi's brilliance and Bayern's opportunism mean for the first time since 2003 there won't be an English side in the UCL semis.**

## A blip or a big deal?

The word dominance has been used to describe EPL clubs' results over the past 5 years yet it has to be said that for a country that has supposedly dominated the European scene from 2004-2009 the number of European Cups (two) isn't so impressive. If dominance is measured in semi-final places and final places then I stand corrected.

Stepping back from the issue of dominance it is clear the last few years have been especially good for fans of the top EPL clubs. In 2006 and 2009 only Barcelona stood in the way of Arsenal and United winning the competition, and in 2007 AC Milan beat Liverpool. For the last three years there have been 3 English teams taking up the semi final places. The answer to whether this type of performance can be replicated in the coming years really depends on your perspective. Historically these things run in cycles and are linked to financial muscle or a golden generation of talent at certain clubs at certain times.

For English clubs the winds of change started in 2003-04 when an excellent Porto team won the cup, beating Monaco 3-0. It was the first time since 1988 when a team from England, Spain or Italy hadn't been in the final. After the 2004 final English teams took stock and Liverpool got Rafa Benitez and Jose Mourinho went to Chelsea. Money was ploughed into the Chelsea squad and this enhanced not only the blues but also English football, making the league more competitive and making Chelsea genuine title challengers.

If we fast forward to the present we have the likes of Uli Hoeness, president of Bayern Munich, saying after the United defeat that English clubs were paying the price for past excesses. Whereas I have no doubt a smidgen of that is true - the transfer kitty at Chelsea and Liverpool has certainly dried up in

recent years - let's not get carried away. It's just one season and I'm not as pessimistic as Hoeness. Announcing the decline of English football after one poor showing is as ludicrous and premature as announcing the resurgence of German football because Bayern happen to be the first German semi-finalists since 2003.

Hoeness also needs to remember that Chelsea and Man City may just come knocking on their door to snatch their best players if they're not careful. That said, from 2010-11 I don't expect English clubs to reach 5 finals in a row as they previously did, especially as financial constraints kick in and clubs tighten their budgets. Yet I refuse to accept that this season signals the start of a major decline of English clubs abroad.

If we look at the English teams performances this season then I would argue that though there has been a decline it isn't as sharp as people would have you believe, and it doesn't necessarily follow that there will be a drop-off in performance over the next few years as a result.

Liverpool was knocked out at the group stage. They faced 2 veteran UCL teams in Lyon and Fiorentina and right up until the 5th game they were in with a chance of qualifying. Their lack of consistency in the UCL has mirrored their season. Yet in the Europa League they have found their level, which is just as well because they'll have to win the competition to get back into Europe next year I reckon. It's just as well they were bumped at the group stage of Europe's premier event so as not to embarrass themselves later on.

The others are a different case in point. Chelsea and Man United were tipped to go further into the competition than the second round and quarter final respectively. But if you look at who they were beaten by is it really a disgrace to lose to the Italian champs or the team leading the Bundesliga? I would concede that in the past few years these teams would have been brushed aside but they both improved their squads in the offseason and it was no surprise to see those additions (Eto'o/Millito and Robben/Olic) scoring goals and influencing both ties.

Add to that the loss of CR7 from United and the fact Chelsea haven't strengthened considerably in a few years and this isn't such a shock. The obvious antidote is for both teams 1 - not to sell their best



Sir Alex doesn't like to lose, but when he does he tends to take it personally.

players and 2 - strengthen what they have. In both cases they are one or two players away from turning aggregate losses into wins.

The same cannot be said for Arsenal but given that Barcelona have handed out football lessons left, right and centre for the past few years it really isn't much of an embarrassment or surprise to see the champions play Arsenal off the park. In fact I have to commend Arsene Wenger for at least trying to go toe to toe with La Blaugrana and not digging a trench in front of the penalty area and setting up a battalion. Their best chance of winning was always to sit back and counter attack but Wenger stuck to his principles.

The major factor in their defeat was that they are not used to their opponents having more possession than them. It also has to be said that playing against Standard Liege, AZ Alkmaar, Olympiakos and FC Porto was hardly ideal preparation for a tie against the best club side in the world. As usually happens with the gunners they reel in the minnows and have trouble with the bigger fish.

Much was also made of the number of passes strung together by Barca and Bayern. These far outweighed their English opponents. Yet as United were down

to 10 men they were always going to have less of the ball, especially as their opponents - in their desperation to score - were able to press high up the pitch and win the ball back in the United half. And anyone who has watched Barca knows that wherever they go, aside from perhaps Real Madrid, they dominate possession. The trick is to close them down and play on the counter attack with speed, which, Walcott aside, Arsenal didn't have.

All three teams need to strengthen if they are to help start a new era of English dominance next year. With the belt tightening going on at many clubs they may have to look at bargain bucket buys from abroad and rely on more obscure players. Man United have already done with this the signing of Javier Hernandez though it remains to be seen if he can translate goals in Mexico to Old Trafford.

Messrs Ancelotti, Wenger and Ferguson take note: If a football club is a woman then this off-season will be a clear indication of which ones are happy to step out next season in the same clothes and make-up and which ones will go for Botox, a facelift and the other repair work to make themselves look better.

## Typical Fergie

Don't be fooled by SAF's customary rants after defeats. His latest was after the Bayern game, denouncing Bayern as 'typical Germans' for surrounding the referee in order to get his player sent off. For a start it isn't as if Ferguson's teams are angels who have never surrounded the referee or called for players to be booked.

I would be rather tired of his bluster if I didn't understand its deeper meaning. He's more upset with Rafael Da Silva getting sent off at such a delicate stage and with his team for blowing a 3-0 lead. His rants are a smokescreen for failure and serve as providing a scapegoat to deflect away from the failings of his team. How do I know this is true? If you check out those players who asked for Da Silva to be booked you'll notice Ribery and Olic were amongst the chief protagonist and neither is German. Bayern are a German club but like most big clubs they draw from a talent pool across the world so the old stereotypes about clubs don't apply anymore. The more I saw re-runs of the interview the more his views mirrored someone stuck in a time warp.

# IN OFF THE POST

Got something to say? Drop us a line and get it off your chest. Best letter wins double movie pass to Palace Cinemas.



mailbag@goalweekly.com



Dear GW,  
Isn't it time someone at the FFA with half a brain (unlikely, I know) finally got it together and organized a national cup? This idea could be a potential goldmine for the state league clubs and really give grassroots of the local game a massive injection of cash and exposure. I'll leave someone more influential than me to work out the details, but here's how a few ideas I reckon they could play with:

1) The 11 A league clubs could join the Cup at the round of 32, with the state league clubs contesting the initial rounds of the cup to provide the other 21 entrants into this round of the competition. The number of entrants from each state would be weighted according the strength of the local state league, with Melbourne and Sydney providing at

least half the teams, along with a couple from every other league.

2) Sell off the naming rights to the competition. Are you telling me someone like Crazy Johns wouldn't be willing to part with a couple of million dollars to have their name in TV, newspapers, magazines and advertising boards whenever a new round of the cup was played?

3) Sell the TV rights to Fox if they're interested, or simply give it to SBS. There's countless thousands of people with no access to coverage of local football because they don't have Foxtel. This would be the perfect way to give the A-League clubs exposure on national TV.

4) Divide the naming rights, advertising and TV rights money evenly among the final 32 clubs. This'll be a pittance to the A-League clubs, but imagine what

a cash injection of \$100,000 could do for a club like Richmond Eagles or Dandenong Thunder?

5) Play all the cup ties between an A-League club and a state league club at the smaller club's homeground. Most of the grand old clubs of the VPL haven't had a full-house at any game for one or more decades, except for Grand Finals. But imagine what would happen if Heidelberg United took on Perth Glory in the quarter-final of a well-marketed National Cup competition? Call me optimistic, but in my opinion they'd have no trouble selling thousands of tickets at Olympic Village and getting the sort of gate receipts it otherwise takes them months to add to the coffers. Surely this makes sense? As far as I'm concerned, a national cup would be the

best thing to have happened to the state league clubs for years and years, and the only way to reverse a stagnation that set in years ago when they got rid of promotion/relegation. I just hope someone at the FFA agrees.

Les Fuller, Mornington

Dear Goal! Weekly  
I have been buying Goal Weekly since its first season.

I have to congratulate you on taking the next step towards becoming a real national soccer newspaper, covering the various state leagues. The colour look as well makes it an excellent publication.

I only hope that you can continue your good work during the off-season as there

is not much coverage of the A-League and the Vic Summer leagues in the other newspapers.

Thank you. This year Goal Weekly is a serious read!  
Well done!

Terence, Eltham VIC

Dear Goal! Weekly,  
Socceroo player Craig Moore quit the Greek league because he said was fined and needed a rest. Why go over there in the first place? Me thinks he was sacked.

D.Gardner, Hampton Park





With Adam North

# Does Theo Walcott deserve to go to the World Cup?

**For the last few years all Arsenal and England fans have been promised that Theo Walcott will some day be a great player. And yet at this point he seems to have progressed very little, at both club and international level. So, if Fabio Capello is selecting is his England squad on current form, not reputation, does Theo Walcott deserve to go to the World Cup?**

Theo Walcott was launched into England's footballing consciousness after two major occurrences; he was bought by Arsene Wenger, and then selected to go to the 2006 World Cup without ever playing a Premiership game. Now Arsene Wenger is possibly the most stubborn football manager in the world, so for him to invest a lot of money into purchasing a player, something which he very rarely does, would suggest that he sees something special.

Walcott, a youngster just starting to break through at Southampton, would have been foolish to turn down the offer to join a team that every year are competing for both top domestic and European honours. But for Wenger it seemed like a somewhat unusual purchase. Usually the Arsenal boss selects players that have a high level of technical ability, that are good at ball retention, that are effective passers and movers, and that have good footballing brains. All of these were seemingly missing when the young Walcott came to the North London giants.

However there was one very notable ability that Walcott does have that has made him stand out throughout his career so far, and that is blistering pace. According to the official statistics the baby-faced Englishman is currently the quickest player in the Premiership, and whilst they were both at the club together he was also quicker than Arsenal legend Thierry Henry. In fact, Theo's top speed is equivalent to the top speed reached by the 'Fastest Man in the World' Usain Bolt, it's just he can't hold that top speed for as long.

It was believed that under the tutelage of Arsene Wenger Walcott would flourish as a player and would improve immeasurably. He should have been able to add to his game in all the areas that he was weak, and learn to utilise his pace in order to genuinely hurt opposition teams. And this would all make him a must start for both club and country. And yet this has simply not happened.

Now Theo has always seemed like



The passing game at Arsenal has sometimes surpassed poor Theo. But will Capello think he's still a big part of his plans for South Africa?

a nice guy, and he is still very young meaning he still has time to develop into a top class player. But it has to be said that all of the holes in his footballing game that were glaringly apparent in his first season at Arsenal are all pretty much still there.

Despite spending much of his time at the Gunners stuck out on the right wing he has in no way improved upon his delivery into the box from wide areas, not just in terms of the quality but in terms of where he is directing the ball. Unlike almost every other player at Arsenal he simply cannot retain the ball for sustained periods, and often spends time running backwards and forwards down the line waiting for the ball to be passed ahead of him for him to run onto. He also doesn't have the best technique and often looses the ball or kicks it too far ahead whilst dribbling. And, interestingly for a player with such pace he isn't that good at taking on defenders and beating them, un-

less he is running full pelt at them.

The problem for Walcott is that although he is ever so slowly improving, and although he does still have a lot of time to get better in the next few seasons, he is right now under constant scrutiny from fans and pundits in what seems like every game. I really cannot remember a young player being put under so much pressure in every game that they play, both for club and for country.

Obviously the reason for all the attention he gets is because he was bought by Wenger whilst still a very young player, he was called into the England World Cup squad as a relatively unknown commodity, and because of his superhuman pace. The expectation levels throughout his career have been very high, and the fact that he isn't reaching them has brought scathing criticism from some. Chris Waddle, a former England player himself, suggested that Walcott doesn't possess a footballing brain, and that he

has in no progressed or improved from the time he was bought into the Arsenal ranks. And to be honest in many parts I agree with his points.

The problem I have, though, is that Waddle seemed to not only point out the weaker areas of Walcott's game, but he seemed to suggest that the kid, who can I point out is still only 21 years old, is a waste of a player and shouldn't be anywhere near a Premiership club, let alone an international player. He implies that any success Walcott has had was a fluke, as defenders were at that time not aware of his pace, but now defenders sit back against him he is wholly ineffective. And also this week a story broke that two television pundits who I shall not name here were heard, due to a technical fault in the programmes commentary recording, to be opening calling him rubbish and using expletives against him.

This kind of criticism will do nothing for a young player who is still learning

his trade. Yes, as I myself have suggested, Walcott does seem to have some major faults that he desperately needs to improve upon, yet let us not forget that this is a player that two great managers, Arsene Wenger and Fabio Capello, have great faith in. And with their resumes it is hard to suggest that they are completely wrong in their assessment of Walcott's potential.

There have been some great moments and some impressive performances from Walcott over the last couple of seasons. In what was England's most important game since they failed to qualify for Euro 2008, away to Croatia in World Cup qualifying, Walcott stunned every naysayer by scoring three goals which gave England the momentum to top their group. He has also on occasion, in games such as Liverpool away in the Champions League, run tiring defenders ragged leading to goals for his team.

A great example of Walcott's current ability level, and a pointer to why I would take Walcott to South Africa, would be his performances for Arsenal against Barcelona in their two Champions League matches. In the first he came on and scored, setting up his team's comeback from taking a battering. Yet in the second game, although he did set up the Arsenal goal, he was largely ineffective. However, if you watched the Barcelona defenders closely, you could see that every time Walcott got the ball they were fearful of him.

And that is what Walcott brings, a fear factor in the opposition, and a potential to do something amazing. Teams often double up on him, afraid of his quickness, which obviously leaves more space for his team mates. And at international level, all it takes is one moment of brilliance, one great run, to make all the difference. He brings something that England do not have, pace, and he can make things happen, especially against tired defences.

Walcott has from now to the World Cup to prove that he deserves his place. Luckily for him there is somewhat of an injury crisis at Arsenal, meaning he should get some full games, and as I have suggested with him on the field all it takes is one moment of brilliance that can make such a difference. So, for me and probably for Capello as well, Walcott has to go to the World Cup. And I really hope that he gets the chance to stuff all the criticism back down the throats of people like Chris Waddle.

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# Police SC kicks Easter goals

For the 6th consecutive year, Victoria Police Soccer Club (VPSC) took part in the Royal Children's Hospital Kids' Big Day Out.

Since 2005, VPSC has run a Sausage Sizzle and Soccer Target competition on the Councourse of Etihad Stadium on Good Friday. While previous years have been busy, 2010 broke all records, with the Kids' Big Day Out crowd being swelled by 28,000 hungry Melbourne Storm and St George Illawara supporters, some of whom showed surprising skills at the Soccer Target.

Self-interest was put aside for such a good cause, with both Melbourne Victory and Melbourne Heart supporting the event. Melbourne Victory supplied signed player posters, while Melbourne Heart Football Manager, John Didulica and players Kamal Ibrahim, Kliment Taseski and BJ Hammill not only helped out on the day, but also brought along four tickets to Melbourne Heart's first ever Hyundai 'A' League match as prizes. VPSC's major sponsor, Emirates Airlines, didn't worry about the venue, supplying caps and other give-a-ways for participants.

Channel Seven did a number of live crosses to the barbecue and Soccer Target, where John Deeks saw first hand the accuracy of the Soccer Target competitors, when he stuck his head through a Target hole, invited young John-Paul Cooper to try and hit him and woke up 5 minutes later with a head ache!!!

VPSC members had a great time, raising \$6,616.60 on the day. This will be supplemented with additional fund raising, which will increase the donation to the 2010 Good Friday Appeal.



Victoria Police Soccer Club kids, Danielle and John-Paul, together with Melbourne Heart player Kliment Taseski, running the Soccer Target competition.  
PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS



VPSC President Ron Sinclair and Melbourne Heart player Kamal Ibrahim serving at the Sausage Sizzle.  
PHOTO: PETER KAKALIAS

WAG OF THE WEEK



Helen Svedin Age: 33  
InSignificant Other: Portugal legend, Luís Figo.



## COUCH POTATO DEPT.

\* ALL TIMES ARE AEDT

SETANTA SPORTS

### Monday 12th April

12:30am FA Cup Semi Final Tottenham vs Portsmouth LIVE  
4:40am Serie A Sampdoria vs Genoa LIVE  
7am Scottish FA Cup Semi Final Dundee Utd vs Raith Rovers  
9:15am SPL Aberdeen vs St Johnstone  
11am Bundesliga Bochum vs Hamburg  
3pm Bundesliga Highlights Show  
4pm Eredivisie FC Twente vs Heerenveen  
5:45pm Serie A Highlights Show  
6:30pm Ligue 1 Highlights Show  
7:30pm FA Cup Highlights Show

### Tuesday 13th April

3:45am Ligue 1 Lyon vs Lille  
7:15am Bundesliga Nuremberg vs Wolfsburg  
9am Russian Premier League Zenit St Petersburg vs Lokomotiv Moscow  
10:45am Ligue 1 Marseille vs Nice  
11pm Portuguese Liga Highlights Show

### Wednesday 14th April

1:45am Ligue 1 Lorient vs Rennes  
4:40am SPL Celtic vs Motherwell LIVE  
7am Portuguese Liga Benfica vs Sporting Lisbon  
8:45am Coppa Italia Semi Final Fiorentina vs Internazionale  
11am Eredivisie AZ Alkmaar vs FC Twente

### Thursday 15th April

4:40am SPL Dundee Utd vs Rangers LIVE  
10:45am Copa Libertadores Universidad Catolica vs Flamengo LIVE  
4pm Bundesliga Preview Show  
7pm J-League Highlights Show

### Friday 16th April

6:45pm SPL Highlights Show

### Saturday 17th April

4:30am Bundesliga FC Koln vs Bochum LIVE  
12pm Copa Libertadores Highlights Show  
3pm J-League Gamba Osaka vs Shimizu S Pulse LIVE  
9:30pm Euro League Teams TBC LIVE  
11:55pm Euro League Teams TBC LIVE

### Sunday 18th April

2am Serie A Chievo vs Livorno LIVE  
5am Ligue 1 Bordeaux vs Lyon LIVE  
9am Bundesliga Bayern Munich vs Hannover  
10:45am Ligue 1 Auxerre vs Lorient  
9:30pm Euro League Teams TBC LIVE  
11:30pm Euro League Teams TBC LIVE

### Monday 19th April

1:30am Euro League Teams TBC LIVE  
5am Ligue 1 St Etienne vs PSG LIVE  
5:45pm Serie A Highlights Show  
6:30pm Ligue 1 Highlights Show

### Tuesday 20th April

7pm SPL Highlights Show

### Thursday 22nd April

2am Coppa Italia Semi Final Udinese vs Roma LIVE  
10:45am Copa Libertadores Sao Paulo vs Once Caldas LIVE  
7pm J-League Highlights Show



### Mon 12th April

5:30 pm Futbol Mundial

### Sun 18th April

3:00 pm Football Asia  
3:30 pm UEFA Champions League Magazine Program  
4:00 pm Les Murray's Football Feature: 2010 FA Cup Semi Final Highlights - Aston Villa v Chelsea and Tottenham v Portsmouth.  
5:00 pm The World Game



**The Futbol Town Show**  
Every Monday 7pm

### Extra Time Magazine Show

Every Wednesday 8pm  
On this week's show:  
Bentleigh Greens v Green Gully  
South Melbourne v Heidelberg Utd  
Womens Premier League Gala  
State League Division 1  
St Albans Saints v North Geelong Warriors  
We also visit Northcote City FC and hear from Head Coach Peter Tsolakis and the boys prior to their Round 6 clash against Sunshine Georgies.

**The Green Gully Football Show**  
Every Saturday 10.30am



### WEEK 35

Wed Apr 14 Chelsea v Bolton 4.55 am (Fox 2)  
Thurs Apr 15 Aston Villa v Everton 4.40 am (Fox 1)  
Thurs Apr 15 Tottenham v Arsenal 4.55 am (Fox 3)  
\* Games not being shown are Wigan v Portsmouth / Fulham v Stoke. (both being played on Thursday 15 April)

### WEEK 36

Sat Apr 17 Man City v Man United 9.40 pm  
Sat Apr 17 Blackburn v Everton 11.55 pm  
Sat Apr 17 Birmingham v Hull 11.55 pm Viewers Choice  
Sat Apr 17 Fulham v Wolves 11.55 pm Viewers Choice  
Sat Apr 17 Stoke v Bolton 11.55 pm Viewers Choice  
Sat Apr 17 Sunderland v Burnley 11.55 pm Viewers Choice  
Sun Apr 18 Tottenham v Chelsea 2.25 am  
Sun Apr 18 Wigan v Arsenal 10.25 pm  
Mon Apr 19 Portsmouth v Aston Villa 12.55 am



### Mon 12th April

11:30 am Bundesliga Matchday 30 - Teams TBA  
10:30 pm World Football News  
11:30 pm Bundesliga Weekly Highlights

### Tues 13th Apr

1:00 pm Football: Serie A Matchday 33 - Teams TBA

### Wed 14th Apr

04:30 am Bundesliga Weekly Highlights (Rpt)  
05:15 am The Serie A Highlights Show

### Thurs 15th April

11:15 am The Serie A Highlights Show (Rpt)





# How I learned to stop worrying and love the Heart

By Aritro Abedin

I can remember the moment I decided to stop striving to be passionate about Melbourne Victory.

It was after a 2-0 home loss to Central Coast Mariners during season one. The result wasn't the problem. That was the evening we'd worked out that with a well co-ordinated series of throwing and catching maneuvers, it was possible for a group of thirsty young fellas like us to successfully sneak a goon-bag into the Northern Terrace. Suffice to say, we had a pretty good night despite the scoreline.

However, it was what happened when we stumbled round to the dressing room after the game that made me have a re-think about this whole newfangled A-League business. A fairly large group of Victory fans were there to greet the team outside the dressing room, and as we waited, a familiar looking bloke with curly hair and a yellow Mariners tracksuit popped his head out the door and gave us a thumbs up. His appearance was immediately met by a chorus of boos and abuse. I suggested loudly that Alex Tobin had perhaps earned the right to more respect than we were showing him. There was a brief pause as they looked at each other quizzically. And then someone asked 'Who's Alex Tobin?'

Who indeed.

Now, I get it folks. The A-League was supposed to attract the sort of football fan who wasn't necessarily of the type to remember that Alex Tobin was our all time most capped Socceroo. Fair enough. The more the merrier eh? But that was just one among a great number of other alienating symptoms: the stupid names, the American style club 'franchise' structure, the logos, the kids thumping inflatable thunder-sticks together in the crowd. All of these things were signs of a move to the mainstream that we'd all been crying out for years and years. And yet, at the same time, all of them characteristic of a league laden with gimmicks, and plastic to the core.

You've heard this before I'm sure. Our footballing fraternity is not short of people who've been repeating the 'plastic league' argument ever since the league's inception. Well you'll be happy to know I got over it. It's been a number of years now, and only the bitterest of cynics would deny that the league is beginning to develop the reserves of folklore, rivalry and tradition that are so essential to football's wider cultural make-up. The Melbourne vs Sydney rivalry that once seemed to be as forced and emotionally



The underlying consensus is that new Melbourne Heart coach John van't Schip already has a healthy contingent of football fans awaiting to join his army and watch his new team in action.

hollow as a monologue in a porno has now become loaded with enough history to have a genuine claim to spitefulness.

Similarly the Melbourne vs Adelaide rivalry. And although I'm yet to be convinced that it's significantly better than what I saw in the NSL, the football is improving. Give it twenty years and Victory fans'll find themselves reminiscing about Richard Kitszbichler with the same obscurist nostalgia with which

Now, I get it folks. The A-League was supposed to attract the sort of football fan who wasn't necessarily of the type to remember that Alex Tobin was our all time most capped Socceroo.

Melbourne Knights fans look back on Toto Da Costa.

I am still not overjoyed about the way the history of the local game continues to be denied like some regrettable national disgrace. To expunge the past from the record may have been necessary from a marketing point of view, but that doesn't alleviate my intuitive sense that it's not right. And to hear the idiot-baked opinions of a number of Victory fans about the old 'effnick' clubs is still liable to make me have to force myself to picture lotus flowers and sunsets in my head and keep smiling until they finish.

However, I can live with it. The fact is folks, I've got the itch. I took up the offer of a free ticket to the Grand Final the other day and in those final hand-wringing moments of extra time, as the Victory masses huddled together riding every kick in a collective agony, my friend turned to me and said 'Imagine how good this would be if either of us gave a stuff about the result!'

And that's why I'm going to buy a membership for the Melbourne Heart

next season. I need a team to support in this league. For all its problems with crowds and clubs haemorrhaging money, it's still our national league and it's still the only league we've ever had that receives enough mainstream exposure in order for the average part-time football watcher to give a flying one about the weekend results. And I know I'm not going to support Victory because once you've actively made the decision to not to support a club, you can't start supporting them again any more than you can re-use a pair of skid-marked underpants that you've tossed into the wash.

So indeed, in the next A-League season I will be a paid-up supporter of Melbourne Heart: the league's newest, and therefore most plastic club. Yes, it's a backflip of Shola Ameobi proportions but I can see myself getting into the spirit of it. And fair play to the marketing men for having the nous to brand the club as a 'traditional'. I'm quite happy to swallow that particular marketing pitch and it certainly goes a long way towards mitigating the aforementioned plasticity.

It's nice to be part of a club that actually aims to attract the old-school instead of attempting to horde them into the shadows like some debased caste of flare-chucking untouchables.

I'm not over-enamoured with the name, but in a league which plays host to a pair of clubs with monikers as utterly wince-inducing as 'Fury' and 'Roar', 'Heart' is by no means the worst possible result. Their avante-garde variation on a traditional football club's crest looks to me somewhat like the lower half of a white figure as it passes a rather enormous kidney stone, but I can live with it. The fact is, I'm relishing the prospect of supporting the under-dog club in Melbourne. Let's face it, in terms of club size and crowd numbers, the Melbourne derby is far more likely to resemble Celtic vs Partick Thistle than Celtic vs Rangers, but that will only make the wins all the more satisfying.

I can't speak for everyone, but I suspect Heart's support will be made up of a share of football fans who've thus far been indifferent to the A-League, but have started to wonder, for all its failings, whether the A-League might be actually be quite fun to be part of. The arrival of a new club into the mix might just give them the nudge they need to get on board.

It will also be home to a great number of NSL and VPL fans who regard Victory as the club of choice for the Johnny-come-lately set. Some of them will act on a nostalgic impulse to resume their participation in Australia's national league. Others will simply throw their support behind Victory's new cross-town rivals simply on the grounds that they're not the Victory.

Good luck to them all. There is no right or wrong reason to start supporting a football club. All I know is that I'm looking forward to watching the A-League next season and actually giving a stuff about the result.

#### Melbourne Heart FC Fact File

Nickname: Heart

Founded: 2008  
Chairman: Peter Sidwell  
Head Coach: John van 't Schip

The Squad so far:  
Clint Bolton, Dean Heffernan, Matt Thompson, Simon Colosimo, Kristian Sarkies, Rutger Worm, Kamal Ibrahim, Wayne Srhoj, Kliment Taseski, Jason Hoffman, Eli Babalj, John Aloisi.



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Seniors	STATE NORTH WEST 2	Reserves
Whittlesea Ranges 2 (S Lamanda M Packovski) Geelong Rangers 1 (D Early), Port Melbourne 5 Sydenham Park 1, Ballarat Red Devils 0 Moreland City 2, Brunswick City 1 Banyule City 2 (D Garisto B Gorcovski) Banyule City 0, Wernebee City 3 (V Cichello JC Spiller 2) Altona East Phoenix 1, Williamstown 1 Altona City 1	Whittlesea Ranges 4 Geelong Rangers 0, Port Melbourne 3 Sydenham Park 1, Ballarat Red Devils 1 Moreland City 2, Brunswick City 1 Banyule City 1, Wernebee City 0 Altona East Phoenix 3, Williamstown 0 Altona City 2	
Port Melbourne Wernebee City Brunswick City Moreland City Whittlesea Ranges Williamstown Altona City Geelong Rangers Altona East Phoenix Ballarat Red Devils Banyule City Sydenham Park	<b>P W D L F A PT</b> 1 1 0 0 5 1 3 1 1 0 0 3 1 3 1 1 0 0 2 0 3 1 1 0 0 2 0 3 1 1 0 0 2 1 3 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 1 2 0 1 0 0 1 1 3 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 1 0 0 1 1 5 0	Whittlesea Ranges Altona East Phoenix Port Melbourne Altona City Moreland City Brunswick City Banyule City Ballarat Red Devils Sydenham Park Williamstown Wernebee City Geelong Rangers

Seniors	STATE NORTH WEST 3	Reserves
Geelong 2 (T Hardy M Nikolovski) Lalor 2 (T Rolevski S Iddrisi), Kellor Park 1 (RR Damianou) Melbourne University 0, La Trobe University 2 Hume Utd 1, Maribyrnong Greens 0 Westgate 0, Sunbury Utd 2 (V Ierardo) Cairnlea 0, Yarraville Glory 3 Essendon Utd 0	Geelong 2 Lalor 2, Kellor Park 5 Melbourne University 1, La Trobe University 6 Hume Utd 4, Maribyrnong Greens 1 Westgate 0, Sunbury Utd 4 Cairnlea 3, Yarraville Glory 2 Essendon Utd 2	
Yarraville Glory Sunbury Utd La Trobe University Kellor Park Lalor Geelong Westgate Hume Utd Melbourne University Cairnlea Essendon Utd Maribyrnong Greens	<b>P W D L F A PT</b> 1 1 0 0 3 0 3 1 1 0 0 2 0 3 1 1 0 0 2 1 3 1 1 0 0 1 0 3 1 0 0 1 0 2 1 1 0 0 1 0 2 2 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 1 2 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 3 0 1 0 0 1 0 0 2	Kellor Park La Trobe University Sunbury Utd Lalor Geelong Yarraville Glory Essendon Utd Maribyrnong Greens Cairnlea Westgate Hume Utd Melbourne University

Seniors	PROVI 1 NORTH WEST	Reserves
FC Strathmore 0 Laverton Park 2 (R Castro L Orozco), North Sunshine Eagles 0 Corio 2, Northern Falcons 1 Melbourne City 0, South Yarra 0 Avondale Heights 2, Westvale 1 (M Pongas) Elwood City 0, Whittlesea Utd 3 (S Mink 2 J Barrientos) North City Lions 1 (D Huseyin)	FC Strathmore 1 Laverton Park 0, North Sunshine Eagles 1 Corio 1, Northern Falcons 3 Melbourne City 4, South Yarra 1 Avondale Heights 2, Westvale 4 Elwood City 3, Whittlesea Utd 1 North City Lions 0	
Whittlesea Utd Laverton Park Avondale Heights Westvale Northern Falcons Melbourne City Elwood City North City Lions North Sunshine Eagles South Yarra FC Strathmore	<b>P W D L F A PT</b> 1 1 0 0 3 1 3 1 1 0 0 2 0 3 1 1 0 0 2 0 3 1 1 0 0 2 0 3 1 1 0 0 1 0 3 1 1 0 0 1 0 3 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 3 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0	Melbourne City Corio Avondale Heights FC Strathmore Whittlesea Utd Corio North Sunshine Eagles Elwood City South Yarra Laverton Park North City Lions Northern Falcons

Seniors	PROVI 2 NORTH WEST	Reserves
Bell Park 2 (LJ Page N Hopper) Western Eagles 3 (M Krawski A Kozulin R Chelchowski), Epping City 2 (M Said N Finli) Melbourne Tornado 1 (D Luketic), Lalor Utd 2 (A Andreviski Z Nancovski) Plenty Valley Lions 4 (D Petkovski 2 J Soklevski 2), Moreland Utd 1 (J Odisho) Collingwood City 0, Surf Coast 0 West Preston 1 (J Tsaboukas), Melton 0 Hoppers Crossing 1 (A Smart)	Bell Park 0 Western Eagles 0, Epping City 8 Melbourne Tornado 2, Lalor Utd 2 Plenty Valley Lions 3, Moreland Utd 2 Collingwood City 3, Surf Coast 1 West Preston 3, Melton 0 Hoppers Crossing 2	
Plenty Valley Lions Western Eagles Epping City West Preston Hoppers Crossing Moreland Utd Bell Park Melbourne Tornado Melton Collingwood City Surf Coast Lalor Utd	<b>P W D L F A PT</b> 1 1 0 0 4 2 3 1 1 0 0 3 2 3 1 1 0 0 2 1 3 1 1 0 0 1 0 3 1 1 0 0 1 0 3 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 2 3 0 1 0 0 1 1 2 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 2 4 0	Epping City West Preston Hoppers Crossing Collingwood City Plenty Valley Lions Western Eagles Bell Park Lalor Utd Surf Coast Melton Melbourne Tornado Moreland Utd

Seniors	PROVI 3 NORTH WEST	Reserves
Balmoral 1 (A Kablar) Meadow Park Eagles 1 (D Magro), Mill Park 1 Darebin Utd 3, Youth Utd 2 (D Kaya) Northern Roosters 1, Bundoora Utd 0 Brunswick Zebras 0, Kellor Wolves 0 Watsonia Heights 4 (A Marney J Kreslevski R Duenden 2), Upfield 0 (T Kakos 2 V Matte E Kondo 2 J Kakos) Brimbank Stallions 2 (RD Origlia R Magro)	Balmoral 1 Meadow Park Eagles 0, Mill Park 1 Darebin Utd 3, Youth Utd 2 Northern Roosters 0, Bundoora Utd 1 Brunswick Zebras 1, Kellor Wolves 1 Watsonia Heights 6, Upfield 4 Brimbank Stallions 4	
Upfield Watsonia Heights Darebin Utd Youth Utd Balmoral Meadow Park Eagles Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras Northern Roosters Mill Park Brimbank Stallions Kellor Wolves	<b>P W D L F A PT</b> 1 1 0 0 6 2 3 1 1 0 0 4 0 3 1 1 0 0 3 1 3 1 1 0 0 2 1 3 1 1 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 1 2 0 1 0 0 1 1 3 0 1 0 0 1 2 6 0 1 0 0 1 0 4 0	Watsonia Heights Darebin Utd Youth Utd Balmoral Brimbank Stallions Upfield Bundoora Utd Brunswick Zebras Meadow Park Eagles Mill Park Northern Roosters Kellor Wolves

Seniors	STATE SOUTH EAST 2	Reserves
Casey Comets 0 Frankston Pines 0, Morwell Pegasus 3 (F Albanese) Eastern Lions 1, Diamond Valley Utd 3 (A Savage V Muratbegovic AJ Hammer) Doncaster Rovers 2, Heatherton Utd 1 Dandenong City 1, Knox City 1 Berwick City 1, Southern Suburbs 1 Southern Stars 3		
Morwell Pegasus Southern Stars Diamond Valley Utd Dandenong City Knox City Heatherton Utd Berwick City Frankston Pines Casey Comets Doncaster Rovers Eastern Lions Southern Suburbs	<b>P W D L F A PT</b> 1 1 0 0 3 1 3 1 1 0 0 3 1 3 1 1 0 0 3 2 3 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 0 0 1 1 0 0 1 2 3 0 1 0 0 1 1 3 0 1 0 0 1 1 3 0	Southern Stars Berwick City Diamond Valley Utd Heatherton Utd Eastern Lions Casey Comets Morwell Pegasus Frankston Pines Doncaster Rovers Knox City Southern Suburbs Dandenong City

Seniors	STATE SOUTH EAST 3	Reserves
Brandan Park 1 (A Varteresian) Waverley Wanderers 1 (S Aydogan), Peninsula Strikers 2 (S Baxter) Croydon City Arrows 1 (D Lalimer), Fitzroy City 1 Noble Park Utd 2, South Springvale 3 (I Dionitis D Pavlic 2) Mornington 1, Springvale City 0 Kingston City 4 (N Tollos 2 K Banks P Sequera), Nunawading City 0 North Caulfield 3 (J Braver J Tasker A Ritzi)	Brandan Park 2 Waverley Wanderers 1, Peninsula Strikers 3 Croydon City Arrows 0, Fitzroy City 1 Noble Park Utd 2, South Springvale 1 Mornington 2, Springvale City 0 Kingston City 8, Nunawading City 4 North Caulfield 1	
Kingston City North Caulfield South Springvale Fitzroy City Peninsula Strikers Waverley Wanderers Brandan Park Noble Park Utd Croydon City Arrows Mornington Nunawading City Springvale City	<b>P W D L F A PT</b> 1 1 0 0 4 0 3 1 1 0 0 3 0 3 1 1 0 0 3 1 3 1 1 0 0 3 2 3 1 1 0 0 2 1 3 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 0 0 1 2 3 0 1 0 0 1 1 2 0 1 0 0 1 1 3 0 1 0 0 1 0 3 0 1 0 0 1 0 4 0	Southern Stars Berwick City Diamond Valley Utd Heatherton Utd Eastern Lions Casey Comets Morwell Pegasus Frankston Pines Doncaster Rovers Knox City Southern Suburbs Dandenong City

Seniors	PROVI 1 SOUTH EAST	Reserves
Warragul Utd 2 (S Byers MK Lewry) Old Melbourneians 2 (M Leary E Meade), Beaumaris 2 Dandenong Sparrows 0, Doveton 1 (L Butnic) Monash University 0, Mooroolbark 1 Sandringham Eagles 1, Mooroolbark 2 (B Adams T Handcastle) Sandringham City 2 (T Fitzpatrick), Old Scotch 0 Old Camberwell Grammar 1 (GG Efe)	Warragul Utd 1 Old Melbourneians 3, Beaumaris 3 Dandenong Sparrows 4, Doveton 1 Monash University 3, Mooroolbark 0, Mooroolbark 0, Mooroolbark 1 Sandringham City 0, Old Scotch 0 Old Camberwell Grammar 2	
Beaumaris Monbulk Doveton Old Camberwell Grammar Old Melbourneians Mooroolbark Warragul Utd Sandringham City Boroondara Eagles Old Scotch Laverton Park Monash University Dandenong Sparrows	<b>P W D L F A PT</b> 1 1 0 0 2 0 3 1 1 0 0 2 1 3 1 1 0 0 1 0 3 1 1 0 0 1 0 3 1 0 0 1 0 2 2 1 0 0 1 0 2 2 1 0 0 1 0 2 2 1 0 0 1 0 2 2 1 0 0 1 1 2 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 1 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0	Old Melbourneians Monash University Old Camberwell Grammar Dandenong Sparrows Monbulk Mooroolbark Beaumaris Boroondara Eagles Sandringham City Warragul Utd Doveton Old Scotch

Seniors	PROVI 2 SOUTH EAST	Reserves
Skye Utd 1 (M Cordoma F Dimu 2) Riversdale 4 (S Lecaros R Halliday 3), Endeavour Utd 1 (GM Dos Santos) Ashburton 1 (C Boyle), Whitehorse Utd 4 (K Tavrou R Macdonald 3) Lyndale Utd 0, Old Carey 0 Old Brighton Grammarians 2, Uni. of Melbourne 2 (M Cosmano) Berwick Kings 1 (M Djordjevic), Bayside Argonauts 2 (C Papageorgiou) Caulfield Cobras 2	Skye Utd 1 Riversdale 2, Endeavour Utd 0 Ashburton 1, Whitehorse Utd 1 Lyndale Utd 4, Old Carey 2 Old Brighton Grammarians 1, Uni. of Melbourne 1 Berwick Kings 4, Bayside Argonauts 0 Caulfield Utd 4	
Whitehorse Utd Old Brighton Grammarians Riversdale Uni. of Melbourne Bayside Argonauts Caulfield Cobras Ashburton Endeavour Utd Skye Utd Berwick Kings Old Carey Lyndale Utd	<b>P W D L F A PT</b> 1 1 0 0 4 0 3 1 1 0 0 2 0 3 1 1 0 0 4 3 3 1 1 0 0 2 1 3 1 0 0 1 0 2 2 1 1 0 0 1 0 2 2 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 3 4 0 1 0 0 1 1 2 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 1 0 0 1 0 4 0	Caulfield Utd Berwick Kings Lyndale Utd Riversdale Old Carey Ashburton Old Brighton Grammarians Skye Utd Endeavour Utd Whitehorse Utd Uni. of Melbourne Bayside Argonauts

Seniors	PROVI 3 SOUTH EAST	Reserves
Noble Park 3 (V Gorsovski A Buhac PA Placko) Eltham Redbacks 2 (BW Mulcahy M medhi), Old Trinity Grammarians 0 Essendon Royals 2, Rowville Eagles 2 (E Gunes) Glen Waverley 0, Seaford Utd 4 (M Curd 2 SD Curd) East Bentleigh 0, White Star Dandenong 4 (I Styczen 2) Manningham 2 (R Rositano 2), Brighton 0 Keysborough 3 (H Tran M Smith T Carrozza)	Noble Park 2 Eltham Redbacks 0, Old Trinity Grammarians 9 Essendon Royals 0, Rowville Eagles 0 Glen Waverley 5, Seaford Utd 6 East Bentleigh 0, White Star Dandenong 3 Manningham 0, Brighton 4 Keysborough 2	
Seaford Utd Keysborough White Star Dandenong Essendon Royals Noble Park Rowville Eagles Eltham Redbacks Manningham Old Trinity Grammarians Glen Waverley Brighton East Bentleigh	<b>P W D L F A PT</b> 1 1 0 0 4 0 3 1 1 0 0 3 0 3 1 1 0 0 4 2 3 1 1 0 0 2 0 3 1 1 0 0 3 2 3 1 1 0 0 2 0 0 1 0 0 1 2 3 0 1 0 0 1 2 4 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 1 0 0 1 0 2 0 1 0 0 1 0 3 0 1 0 0 1 0 4 0	Old Trinity Grammarians Seaford Utd Glen Waverley White Star Dandenong Brighton Noble Park Keysborough Eltham Redbacks Manningham East Bentleigh Essendon Royals Rowville Eagles

ROUND 2 FIXTURES
All matches to be played on Saturday 17th April with 3pm KO unless otherwise stated.
STATE NW 2 Altona City v Werribee City HC Kim Reserve Altona East Phoenix v Port Melbourne Paisley Park Soccer Complex Banyule City v Whittlesea Ranges Yallambie Park Reserve Geelong Rangers v Williamstown Myers Reserve Moreland City v Brunswick City Campbell Reserve Sydenham Park v Ballarat Red Devils Kellor Lodge Reserve
STATE SE 2 Doncaster Rovers v Frankston Pines Anderson Park Fri 16 Apr KO 8:30PM Casey Comets v Knox City Comets Stadium Berwick City v Southern Suburbs Jack Thomas Reserve Dandenong City v Eastern Lions Frank Holohan Soccer Reserve Heatherton Utd v Southern Stars Bosnia & Herzegovina Centre Morwell Pegasus v Diamond Valley Utd Ronald Reserve
STATE NW 3 Cairnlea v Geelong Cairnlea Park Hume Utd v Kellor Park Laura Douglas Reserve Lalor v Yarraville Glory RGC Cook Reserve Melbourne Uni Rangers v Maribyrnong Greens Princes Park (Parkville) Essendon Utd v La Trobe University Aberfeldie Park Westgate v Sunbury Utd Ardeer Reserve Sat 17 Apr KO 7:00PM
STATE SE 3 Peninsula Strikers v South Springvale Centenary Park Noble Park Utd v Brandon Park Parkfield Reserve Springvale City v Waverley Wanderers Ross Reserve Mornington v Fitzroy City Dallas Brooks Park North Caulfield v Croydon City Arrows Caulfield Park Sun 18 Apr KO 3:00PM Kingston City v Nunawading City The Grange Reserve Mon 19 Apr KO 8:30PM
PROVI NW 1 Westvale v Avondale Heights McKechnie Reserve Corio v Northern Falcons Hume Reserve, Geelong Elwood City v North Sunshine Eagles Elwood Park Laverton Park SC v South Yarra Laverton Park Reserve Melbourne City v Whittlesea Utd Edwards Reserve FC Strathmore v North City Lions Strathnaver Reserve
PROVI SE 1 Boroondara Eagles v Monash University Macleay Park Dandenong Sparrows v Warragul Utd Fotheringham Reserve Doveton v Mooroolbark Waratah Reserve Old Camberwell Grammar v Beaumaris Deepline Park Old Melbourneians v Monbulk Robert Menzies Reserve Sandringham City v Old Scotch RJ Sillitoe Reserve
PROVI NW 2 Collingwood City v Melton Kevin Bartlett Reserve Hoppers Crossing v Epping City Grange Reserve Melbourne Tornado v Surf Coast Newmarket Reserve Plenty Valley Lions v Moreland Utd Sycamore Reserve West Preston v Bell Park Oulton Reserve Western Eagles v Lalor Utd Polish Sports & Recreation Centre
PROVI SE 2 Uni. Of Melbourne Blues SC v Riversdale Princes Park (Parkville) Ashburton v Whitehorse Utd Ashburton Park Berwick Kings v Endeavour Utd Betulia Park Caulfield Cobras v Old Carey Victory Park Lyndale Utd v Bayside Argonauts Lyndale Secondary College Old Brighton Grammarians v Skye Utd Dendy Park
PROVI NW 3 Brimbank Stallions* v Kellor Wolves Club Italia Sporting Complex Darebin Utd v Balmoral Mayer Park Meadow Park Eagles v Upfield Gladstone Park Reserve Watsonia Heights v Youth Utd Gaboria Reserve Brunswick Zebras v Mill Park Summer Park Northern Roosters v Bundoora Utd Gibb Reserve
PROVI SE 3 East Bentleigh v Old Trinity Grammarians Bailey Reserve Manningham v Seaford Utd Timber Ridge Reserve Essendon Royals v Rowville Eagles Ormond Park Keysborough v Noble Park Coomoora Reserve Glen Waverley FC v Brighton Larpet Reserve Eltham Redbacks v White Star Dandenong Eltham North Reserve Sat 17 Apr KO 7:00PM

# Warriors force draw with Dinamo in derby season opener

By Aritro Abedin

A bumper crowd of 1700 were treated to a pulsating contest between St Albans and North Geelong at Knights Stadium, which ended in heartbreak for the home team as the Warriors snatched a last minute equalizer to end the match at 2-2.

The battle between the division's two Croatian-backed representatives was a high octane encounter right from the word go with the Warriors creating several chances for their gifted teenage striker Matthew Demo. However it was Saints who took the ascendancy with last year's B & F winner Ivo Razov finishing off a well-worked maneuver to put the home side ahead in the 32nd minute. Marko Kuna carried on his excellent form from last year with a 51st minute equalizer for the Warriors, before Saints new signing Alibei capped his debut with a header from a long free kick to restore his team's advantage in the 81st. The home side looked to have the game on ice as the game trickled into the final tense minutes of injury time, but disaster struck with just 30 seconds left as a defensive mix-up allowed Matthew Demo to score the equalizer to break St Albans' hearts and secure a valuable away point for the Warriors.



Neither keeper Doug Lindberg nor Nej Sahin of Fawkner can stop Nick Davey scoring in his first match for FC Clifton Hill PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

Langwarrin vs Western Suburbs 0-1  
Western Suburbs made the trek to Lawton Park for their season opener against Langwarrin, and they came out on top of a cagey encounter with a 1-0 victory to get their season off to the best possible start. There was precious little goal-mouth action during what was a drab first half but an immaculate finish from Nicholas Scerri proved to be the difference between the two sides as Western Suburbs opened their account for season 2010 with a valuable away win.

Pascoe Vale 2- Preston Lions 0  
Pascoe Vale delighted coach George Kakaletsis with a wonderfully assured performance, overpowering Preston in a 2-0 win at home at Hosken Reserve. It was an inauspicious opening for the Lions as they struggled to defend against a number of well-crafted chances by a well oiled Pascoe Vale outfit. Pascoe Vale opened the scoring with a well taken goal by Marco Santilli, who was named by Kakaletsis as one of the standouts in the match. From there it all went to tatters for Preston as they had a man sent off before Liam Flynn then put the icing on the cake as the relentless pressure from the Pascoe Vale midfield and attack told on the Preston goal-keeper, who sliced his kick straight to the opposition. The ball eventually came to Santilli on the left who put in an accurate centering ball to gift Liam Flynn his first goal of the season. Coach Kakaletsis was particularly pleased with the all-round team effort, saying he felt his team could have made more of the chances they created and emerged with a more emphatic scoreline. He also singled out former South Melbourne man Evan Karavitis among the men



Sam Tyrikos (Clifton Hill) misses with his tackle and Robert Dolevski (Fawkner) is away. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

SL1 RESULTS
St Albans Saints 2 (I Razov M Alibeyi) North Geelong Warriors 2 (M Demo M Kuna)
FC Clifton Hill 1 Fawkner Blues 2
Langwarrin 0 Western Suburbs 1 (N Scerri)
Pascoe Vale 2 Preston Lions 0
Bulleen Lions v Whittlesea Zebras Mon 12th April Veneto Social Club KO 8.30pm
Springvale White Eagle v Malvern City Mon 12th April White Eagles Stadium KO 8.30pm

SL1 NEXT ROUND
Round 2 Sat 17 Apr KO 3pm Nth Geelong v Springvale WE Elcho Park Sat 17 Apr KO 3pm Malvern City v Bulleen Lions Kingston Heath Soccer Complex Sun 18 Apr KO 3pm Whittlesea Zebras v Clifton Hill Epping Soccer Stadium Sun 18 Apr KO 3pm Fawkner Blues v Langwarrin CB Smith Reserve Sun 18 Apr KO 3pm Preston Lions v St Albans BT Connor Reserve Sun 18 Apr KO 3pm Western Suburbs v Pascoe Vale Ralph Reserve

SL1 LADDER									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
Pascoe Vale	1	1	0	0	2	0	3		
Fawkner Blues	1	1	0	0	2	1	3		
Western Suburbs	1	1	0	0	1	0	3		
Nth Geelong Warriors	1	0	1	0	2	2	1		
Whittlesea Zebras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Springvale White E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
FC Bulleen Lions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Malvern City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
FC Clifton Hill	1	0	0	1	1	2	0		
Langwarrin	1	0	0	1	0	1	0		

SL1 U21 LADDER									
	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	D	Pts
Pascoe Vale	1	1	0	0	4	1	3		
Fawkner Blues	1	1	0	0	3	1	3		
Nth Geelong Warriors	1	1	0	0	2	0	3		
Western Suburbs	1	1	0	0	1	0	3		
Springvale White E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Malvern City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Whittlesea Zebras	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
FC Bulleen Lions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Langwarrin	1	0	0	1	0	1	0		
FC Clifton Hill	1	0	0	1	1	3	0		

# LAIKI BANK



# Fabrice Linck and the art of football

While the name might perhaps conjure up visions of a yet-known talented French mid-fielder, aged sixteen – possibly – and guaranteed a bright future in the Premier League, Fabrice Linck is no such individual.

Alas, although football plays a huge part in his life, the nearest Fabrice (40) gets to a match ball is the occasional attendance at Stade de la Meinau, and even then it's simply to support the home side RC Strasbourg, or 'le Racing' as they're known.

However Monsieur Linck cannot be categorised along with other regular supporters, who exercise their love of the game by buying merchandise, season tickets and satellite dishes. Fabrice prefers to turn what he sees of the beautiful game into an art-form: bande dessinée; putting pen to paper to create what is known as 'BD' to the man-in-the-street (pronounced 'beedy') or 'comic-strips' to you and I.

In France there's no shame in being an author of comic art, in fact it carries a certain amount of kudos, partly because comic 'albums' sell in quantities comparable to those experienced by the literature market and partly because they are also enjoyed by readers of all ages.

If you ever happen to visit the home of a Frenchman you will likely note at least one bookshelf displaying a collection of comic albums, upon which there will be at least one Asterix or Tintin title. By contrast, in Britain, anyone caught with a collection of comic books on their shelves after the age of eighteen would be subject to ridicule. It's far cooler to display a collection of Nick Hornby's – even if you haven't even read them, or even like them.

"C'est dans notre culture" he explains; in French; obviously; I shall translate. "It's part of our culture" he explains. "For us, it's even an art form, the ninth art!"

Linck explains that he became an author of football 'BD' purely by accident "One day, I had an unexpected call from an old work colleague (and also now an editor) who needed a writer." The writing project in question was a centenary album for local stars of 'le foot' Racing Club de Strasbourg to celebrate their colourful hundred year history. A noteworthy history, given that Strasbourg are the only team to have played in both the German and French leagues. One thing led to another and Linck soon found himself working on a similar project for Lille Métropole FC entitled 'Hors jeu!' (Offside) for junior fans of the Ligue 1 club.

This didn't challenge Linck's allegiance to Strasbourg however as he explains "I don't really support one team over another, I'm always for the French national side and RC Strasbourg (the first time I went to Stade de la Meinau was 1979, the year they were champions of France, and I still go from time to time). If not, I like Arsenal, Barcelona and Real Madrid." So Linck is comfortable approaching other clubs to sell his niche specialism in a country that is both football and BD mad.

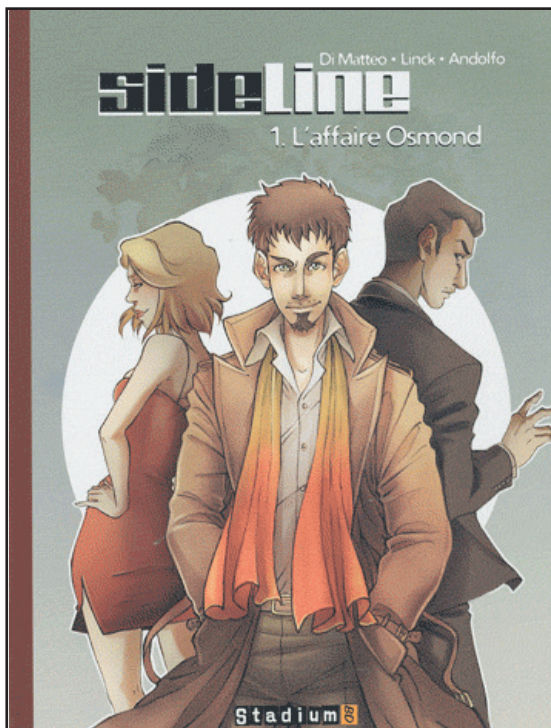
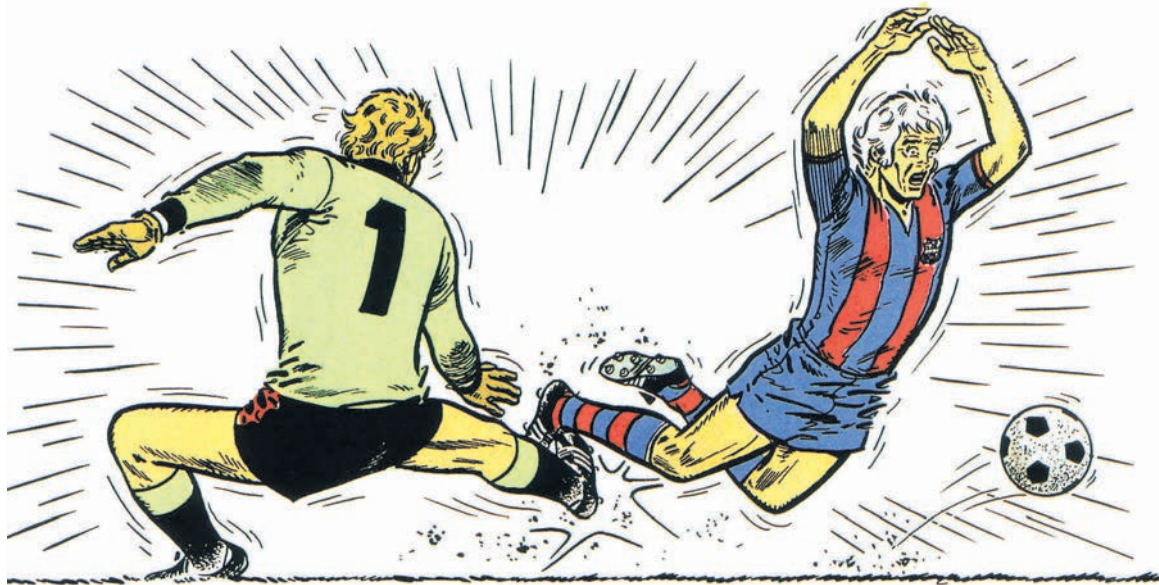
Linck's love of BD, and perhaps his interest in FC Barça, can be traced back to Éric Castel a French comic-book hero of the 1980s whose adventures at FC Barcelona spanned sixteen volumes over a twelve year period, the complete set now sitting proudly on Linck's bookshelves. Éric Castel tells of a French footballer whom, after recovering from an injury at



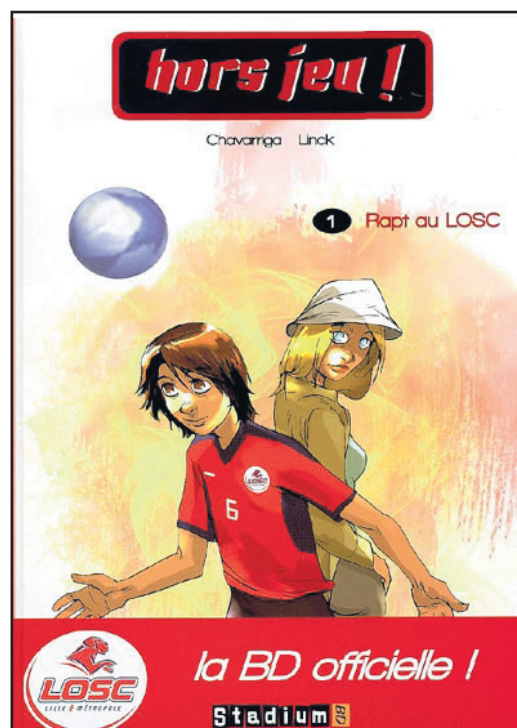
Racing Club Strasbourg



Scenes from Sideline



Sideline cover



Hors jeu cover

Inter Milan, moves to Barcelona to re-launch his career, where he falls in love with the country and the fans. Like all good childhood heroes the 'adventures' he has are usually based upon good mor-

als and journeys of self-discovery. Not surprisingly then Éric Castel has been consigned to history, not least one supposes because good morals and journeys of self-discovery are the last things on

your average soccer player's agenda these days. If Castel were to be reborn in the modern era – he'd probably have to be a womanising, snow-blowing play-boy in order to have any credibility, and

his wife/girlfriend would probably play a big part in his 'adventures'.

Of course it's no one man job, creating a comic-book, for each title Linck must collaborate with an illustrator and a colourist in order to turn each of his scripts into a finished comic-strip. "As the illustrators I collaborate with aren't from Strasbourg, we work thanks to the internet. I write and send the scenes that I create by mail. Then the illustrator sends me a layout. I make the corrections, if necessary, and then the illustrator works on a storyboard. If everything is ok, we go into colour." The results are published by a small local publishing house and then distributed to a number of high street and online stores across France. "The Strasbourg book sold well, in fact it was a best-seller in Strasbourg December 2006, and Offside! for Lille, did well too. For Sideline it's been average, but the reception has been rather good".

Sideline is Linck's first independent album, outside of any club or major publishing house, a fictional whodunit set in the English Premier League. The story unfolds at a mythical 'London United FC' where a young attractive woman having recently taken over the club presidency calls in a private detective to track down the club's finance director, Osbourne, who appears to have gone AWOL with some highly sensitive paperwork. "Essentially with Sideline there were two goals. The first was to reveal what goes on behind the scenes in the world of football. For The Osmond Affair (book 1) the idea was to construct a story around the massive foreign investments being made in English clubs.

The second was to convey, as a backdrop, the ambiance in France during the World Cup 2006. Before the competition and during the first round almost everyone made fun of the French team (a bit like now); and then, after victory against Spain in the knockout stages, people came out onto the streets as die-hard supporters, which made me laugh." The book has received some reasonably good reviews thanks in no small part to the stunning artwork of Daniele Di Matteo and brushstrokes of colourist M. Andolfo, Linck's talented collaborators.

Linck believes that football offers plenty of other possibilities for future fiction projects "themes that I envisage exploiting? Violence in certain French (and foreign) stadiums and doping in Italy." however reveals that he is already in discussions with another Ligue 1 club for another sponsored title.

So how well does Monsieur Linck know the Australian Soccer scene? "Not very well in fact. I know that there were some efforts to get some foreign players over there some seasons ago (like Dwight Yorke who left to play for Sydney I believe, only to come back to England rather quickly). On the other hand I know that the national selection structure itself little by little (with some good players like Tim Cahill at Everton or Brett Emerton at Blackburn. Anyway the elimination in the World Cup 2006 against Italy was completely unmerited (imaginary penalty!)" Perhaps there's a theme in there somewhere that deserves to be turned into a comic book? Perhaps not.

Unfortunately for Anglophone readers, none of Linck's titles are yet available in English, however all of the original versions can be purchased online at amazon.fr for those who can, or are willing to learn to read French.





# Blacktown edge ahead of the pack

By Mike Salter

The much-anticipated summit clash between joint leaders Blacktown City and the Bonnyrigg White Eagles ended in victory for the former on their home ground. A goal either side of half-time was enough for Aytek Genc's side, who held out with ten men for the final twenty minutes.

Marconi moved back into second spot with an impressive 3-1 away win at Bankstown. Details of that one can be found below.

Sydney United scored another important win, this time at the expense of the Sutherland Sharks, to move into shared third place. United youngster Ante Tomić scored a contender for goal of the season in the 3-1 win.

Two of the season's surprise packages shared the spoils at Bicentennial Park. The Rockdale City Suns took the lead against the West Sydney Berries 17 minutes from the close, but an injury-time strike secured a point for the Berries.

The South Coast Wolves continued their excellent run, downing Manly United 1-0 at Cromer Park. Phil Moss's team, finalists in the last two seasons, have endured their worst start to the season in some time.

In the battle of the basement, two former NSL giants faced off at Leichhardt Oval. APIA-Leichhardt emerged victorious, staving off a late fightback by Sydney Olympic to win 3-1. Olympic had also suffered defeat in the postponed game from Round 6, losing 1-0 to Rockdale at Belmore.

## Bankstown City 1-3 Marconi Stallions

Last season's grand finalists Marconi bounced back well from last week's defeat at the hands of Sydney United, seeing off a fading Bankstown City at Jensen Park.

Marconi opened the scoring before the hosts had truly settled into the game. After only three minutes, a loose ball from player-coach Peter Tsekenis was seized upon by the Marconi midfield; the ball reached Erick Anabalón, who sent a precise ball into the inside-right channel for Mitchell Mallia to chase. The pacy Marconi winger surged past Richard Luksic and finished adeptly with his left foot.

Gradually Bankstown began to make their presence felt, as Marconi ceded the midfield to the home side. On 16 minutes, Hussein Salameh had a shot blocked on the line following a corner, and three minutes later Bankstown's clever midfield inter-passing bore fruit. A delightful backheel from Salameh began the move, and the ball eventually reached former Sydney FC youth star Robbie Mileski on the right; moving on into the area, he picked his spot calmly and sent a fine shot past James Chronopoulos in the Marconi goal.

Bankstown went onto the offensive in the succeeding minutes. Latching onto a pass from George Nohra, young fullback Shannon Burgin sent a cross-shot whistling just wide of the goal. Mileski broke free on the right again on the half-hour, but this time Chronopoulos was able to cover his eventual outside-of-the-foot shot.

Ex-AIS and Newcastle Jets forward Jason Naidovski had made little impact in the opening half-hour, but almost scored a spectacular goal on 35 minutes. The



NSW goal mouth action between West Sydney Berries and Rockdale City Suns.  
PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO/Courtesy FNSW



NSW action between West Sydney Berries and Rockdale.  
PHOTO: CARLOS FURTADO

ball was played over the top to him, and as Zlatko Joseski advanced, he attempted to lob him from a tight angle. The effort floated agonisingly wide.

Marconi reclaimed the ascendancy towards the end of the half, and Mallia almost scored his second on 43 minutes. Cutting inside to shake off the attentions of Tsekenis, he curled a shot onto the bar. A minute later Mallia was put through again, this time by Marconi captain Nahuel Arrarte, but Joseski managed to get his body in the way of the winger's

close-range shot.

The opening minutes of the second half passed without incident, but on 50 minutes the away side regained the lead. A free kick on the edge of the Bankstown area was entrusted to Jason Naidovski, and the youngster sent a superb left-footed shot into the near corner. Joseski had no chance whatsoever.

Despite Bankstown's efforts from that point on, Marconi's three points never looked in serious danger. Mileski headed wide from a Burgin cross on 52 minutes,

and eleven minutes later Mileski's well-weighted through-ball connected with a run by Salameh, but the Lebanese international took one touch too many, and his eventual strike was smothered by the impressive Chronopoulos.

Marconi had an excellent chance to seal the points on 76 minutes, when a cross from substitute Alex Canak (soon to be substituted himself) was deflected to Naidovski, some eight yards from goal. This time, the youngster's finish was less than impressive.

NSW LADDER				
	P	W	L	Pts
Blacktown City FC	7	5	0	17
Marconi Stallions	7	5	1	16
Sydney United	7	4	1	14
Bonnyrigg White Eagles	7	4	1	14
Rockdale City Suns	7	2	1	10
Manly United FC	7	2	3	8
South Coast Wolves	7	2	3	8
West Sydney Berries	7	2	3	8
Sutherland Sharks	7	2	4	7
Bankstown City	7	1	4	5
Sydney Olympic	7	1	5	4
APIA Leichhardt Tigers	7	1	5	4

NSW RESULTS				
NSW PREMIER LEAGUE: ROUND 7: FIRST GRADE: Rockdale City Suns 1 (Marino Musumeci 73m) West Sydney Berries 1 (John Tsironis 90m), Manly United FC 0 South Coast Wolves 1 (Adrian Karakolevski 76m), Bankstown City Lions 1 (Robert Mileski 19m) Marconi Stallions 3 (Mitchell Mallia 3m, Jason Naidovski 50m Matthew Gordon 88m), APIA Leichhardt Tigers 3 (Mark Byrnes 15m Nicola Rizzo 24m Stephen Kayes 78m) Sydney Olympic FC 1 (Chris Triantis 71m pen), Blacktown City FC 2 (Tolgay Ozbey 36m Mitchell Long 55m) Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Sydney United FC 3 (Elsid Barkhousir 12/54m Ante Tomic 39m) Sutherland Sharks 1 (Panni Nikas 4m).				
GRADE 20: Rockdale City Suns 3 West Sydney Berries 0, Manly United FC 1 South Coast Wolves 0, Bankstown City Lions 5 Marconi Stallions 0, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 Sydney Olympic FC 4, Blacktown City FC 3 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 2, Sydney United FC 0 Sutherland Sharks 2. GRADE 18: Rockdale City Suns 0 West Sydney Berries 2, APIA Leichhardt Tigers 1 Sydney Olympic FC 4, Blacktown City FC 2 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 4.				
NSW SUPER LEAGUE: ROUND 4: FIRST GRADE: Northern Tigers 2 (P Davies 34m Own goal 45m) Macarthur Rams 2 (A De La Cuadra 38m S Messan 87m). GRADE 20: Northern Tigers 4 Macarthur Rams 0.				
STATE LEAGUE DIVISION ONE: ROUND 4: FIRST GRADE: Inter Lions 1 (S Petralito 34m) Blacktown Spartans 2 (G McPherson 8m R Iredale 64m), Hurstville ZFC 2 (S Perak 74m T Dejanovic 89m) Stanmore Hawks 3 (W Hijazi 28/29/72m), Gladesville Ryde Magic 0 Schofield Scorpions 1 (T Simpson 39m), Fairfield City Lions 1 (F Jeremiah 42m) Mounties Wanderers 2 (G Baldock 18/80m), Camden Tigers 3 (A Smutek 11m D Morgan 42m D Mackechnie 61m) Hills Brumbies 2 (B Mitrovich 19m D Savic 44m).				
GRADE 20: Inter Lions 0 Blacktown Spartans 3, Hurstville ZFC 0 Stanmore Hawks 1, Gladesville Ryde Magic 3 Schofield Scorpions 2, Fairfield City Lions 0 Mounties Wanderers 2, Camden Tigers 2 Hills Brumbies 3.				
STATE LEAGUE DIVISION TWO: ROUND 3: FIRST GRADE: Bathurst 75 0 Hakoah FC 0, Hurstville City Minotaurs 3 (A Vagenas 47m T Sidiratis 62m M Di Meglio 75m) Luddenham United 0, Fairfield Wanderers 3 (C Navarrete x 2 R Sanchez x 1) Gazy Lansvale 2 (H Merdanovic x 1 S James x 1), Fairfield Bulls 2 (K Elkerhani 28m E Adam 81m) Hawkesbury City SC 2 (S O'Dea 75m A Judge 85m). GRADE 20: Bathurst 75 0 Hakoah FC 0, Hurstville City Minotaurs 4 Luddenham United 1, Fairfield Wanderers 0 Gazy Lansvale 0, Fairfield Bulls 2 Hawkesbury City SC 1.				

NEXT ROUND				
<b>Round 8</b>				
7pm Sat 17/Apr B'rigg White Eagles v Manly Utd				
Bonnyrigg Sports Club				
7pm Sat 17/Apr S'land Sharks v Bankstown City				
Seymour Shaw Park				
7.30pm Sat 17/Apr Marconi Stallions v Blacktown City				
Marconi Stadium				
3pm Sun 18/Apr Syd Olympic v West Syd Berries				
Belmore Sports Ground				
3pm Sun 18/Apr Sth Coast Wolves v Rockdale City Suns				
Win Stadium				
4pm Sun 18/Apr Syd Utd v APIA L'hardt Tigers				
Sydney Utd Sports Centre				



# Glenorchy Knights go top in Tasmania

By Walter Pless

**Second-placed Glenorchy Knights leapfrogged leaders South Hobart to take over top spot on the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League ladder after beating third-ranked Tilford Zebras 4-0 at KGV Park on Friday night.**

Knights led 3-0 at half-time, but Zebras had squandered some excellent chances. Jade Clay gave Knights a 5th-minute lead when he picked up a pass from Josh Fielding on the edge of the box and shot through the legs of the advancing Zebras keeper, Troy Kaden.

The Knights goal then led a charmed life as Zebras missed three glorious opportunities in the space of a minute.

First, Matt Hall put Dwayne Walsh through and into the box, but Knights goalkeeper Ben Peter parried the striker's shot. The ball fell to Adam Young, whose shot was cleared on the line by Jacob Huigsloot.

Seconds later, Hall rounded Peter and was on the verge of scoring when Alex Holmes saved the day for Knights by clearing the goal-bound shot.

Knights counter-attacked immediately and might have scored their second, but Juma Barabara's shot was weak and directed straight at Kaden.

Kaden denied Daniel White in the 16th minute following Barabara's cross, but two minutes later, Huigsloot made it 2-0 with a magnificent shot from the edge of the box that dipped under the bar.

White, on two occasions, and Barabara missed chances before the Zebras' centre-back Ryan Smith ventured forward, only to have a tame shot blocked by Peter.

In the 36th minute, Amadu Koroma made it 3-0 with a cheeky back-heeler after Fielding's low cross from the left.

Koroma grabbed his second goal of the match, and the Knights' fourth, 14 minutes from the end when he got onto the end of White's right-wing cross to hammer home from close range.

On Saturday, fourth-placed New Town Eagles were held to a goalless draw at home at Clare Street by second-last Clarence United.

Clarence had many more chances than the home team, but the closest they came to scoring was in the second half when Luke Cripps hit the bar.

Eagles also hit the post in the second period, but the miss of the match must have been when Adam McKeown spurned an open goal, choosing power instead of placement from close range on the left of the penalty area.

Bottom-side Olympia Warriors suffered another defeat when they went down 2-1 away to Kingborough Lions United at Lightwood Park on Saturday.

After a goalless opening half, Greg Freeman put the Lions in front, but Warren Wadawu equalised for Olympia within 90 seconds.

Tom McDonald gave Lions the win with a late strike.

In the Northern Premier League, Prospect Knights overcame Riverside Olympic 2-1, Burnie United trounced Somerset 6-2, and Northern Rangers beat Launceston United 4-2.

In Easter Monday's preliminary round of the State-wide Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy, New Town Eagles beat Olympia Warriors 3-0, and Kingborough Lions United downed Launceston City 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out after the sides



Eagles' Andrew Clark (white shirt) gets in a tackle on Clarence's captain, Luke Cripps (left).  
PHOTO: WALTER PLESS



Clarence's Mattias Toghil (right) tackles Eagles' Jamie Vernon.  
PHOTO: WALTER PLESS

were level at 3-3 after extra-time.

Taroona demolished DOSA 9-0, while Metro lost 2-0 at home at North Chigwell to Ulverstone.

The Tasmanian Institute of Sport won 3-1 away against Launceston United, and Nelson Eastern Suburbs overcame Hobart United 4-1.

Southern Division One clubs Beachside and University forfeited to Burnie United and Somerset, respectively, earning themselves the wrath of Football

SOUTH RESULTS	
Glenorchy Knights 4	defeated Tilford Zebras 0
Kingborough Lions 2	defeated Hobart Olympia 1
New Town Eagles 0	drew with Clarence United 0

SOUTH LADDER	
	P W D L F A Pts
Glenorchy Knights	5 4 0 1 17 8 12
South Hobart	4 3 1 0 7 1 10
Tilford Zebras	5 2 2 1 9 9 8
New Town Eagles	5 1 2 2 10 10 5
Kingborough Lions	5 2 1 2 7 9 7
Taroona	4 1 1 2 8 9 4
Clarence United	5 1 2 2 7 11 5
Hobart Olympia	5 0 1 4 4 12 1

NEXT ROUND	
<b>Round 6</b>	
<b>Saturday 17th April</b>	
Hobart Olympia v Glenorchy Knights	South Hobart 2.30pm
Clarence United v South Hobart	Wentworth Park 2 6.30pm
<b>Sunday 18th April</b>	
New Town Eagles v Tilford Zebras	Clare Street 2.30pm
Taroona v Kingborough Lions	Kelvedon Park 2.30pm

NORTH RESULTS	
Burnie United 6	defeated Somerset 2
Launceston City 1	lost to Devonport City 4
Prospect Knights 2	defeated Riverside Olympic 1

NORTH LADDER	
	P W D L F A Pts
Burnie United	2 2 0 0 15 1 6
Riverside Olympic	2 2 0 0 5 1 6
Northern Rangers	1 1 0 0 7 1 3
Devonport City	1 0 0 0 2 1 3
Ulverstone	2 1 0 1 3 3 3
Somerset	2 1 0 1 4 4 3
Launceston City	2 0 0 2 1 3 0
Prospect Knights	2 0 0 2 3 10 0
Launceston United	2 0 0 2 1 17 0

NEXT ROUND	
<b>Round 4</b>	
<b>Saturday 17th April</b>	
Launceston United v Ulverstone	Birch Avenue 2.30pm
Riverside Olympic v Northern Rangers	Windsor Park 2.30pm
Devonport City v Somerset	Valley Road 2.30pm
Burnie United v Prospect Knights	Montello 2.30pm
Launceston City - Bye	

Federation Tasmania, who have fined both clubs.





# Red Devils snatch late winner over Foxes

By Nat Adamopoulos

Campbelltown City Red Devils got their season back on track with a hard fought 3-2 win over Cumberland United Foxes, the late winner coming from Ali Toure in the 79th minute in what was an evenly contested match at the Newton Village Sports Complex. The win puts them on six points and into second spot on the Super League ladder after three rounds, one point behind league leaders and 2009 Champions MetroStars.

The Foxes were missing captain and staunch defender Danny Graystone due to injury but were able to withstand the pressure put upon them by the Red Devils with tall timber Damien Puyenbroek and player/coach Neil Young both putting in sterling performances. Campbelltown came out of the blocks early, a chance presenting itself within the first five minutes from a freekick by Pat Barbaro just outside the box, giving midfielder Michael Paleka a perfect opportunity to score, Puyenbroek pressuring him well. In the 17th minute it was the Foxes turn, a corner kick that split through the Red Devils defence had Daniel Carter getting a touch on it under pressure and looking like it would trickle over the line. only to have Campbelltown's experienced keeper Les Pogliacomini handling it with ease. Veteran striker Jason Trimboli and Barbaro teamed up well for the Devils, looking threatening early on in the match with both players having chances to get the early ice breaker. Around the 20 minute mark of the game, Red Devil's midfielder Paleka popped a ball up to Barbaro after switching play, Barbaro hitting it sweetly forcing the Foxes keeper Dan Atkins to make a diving save to keep the homeside scoreless.

The Red Devils finally broke through shortly after, the first goal of the match coming in the 25th minute, after Trimboli unsuccessfully took two bites of the cherry then turned to supply to Barbaro, who lobbed it up for Paleka to nod in past a napping Foxes defence and keeper. Momentum was swinging back and forth between the two sides, both defences being called upon to withstand the pressure dished up to them. The Devils let go of the chance to go two goals up in the 36th minute, when Trimboli put a ball in for Vas Parhas, his shot being parried away from Atkins but right into the path of Barbaro calling upon Foxes defender Jodie Loomes to squeeze the inform Devil out of play. Shortly after, the Foxes missed a great chance to equalize when Briscoe placed his freekick onto the head of Puyenbroek only to see it go wide of the post. But the Foxes hard work paid off right on half time, after a free kick was awarded by referee Dave Alberton when forward Robbie Macdonald was brought down just outside the box by Campbelltown's Luca DiGirolami. Macdonald stepped up to take the kick, his strike coming off keeper Pogliacomini but dropping to the feet of brother Brendan Macdonald for an easy tap in and the equalizer.

Action didn't take long to start up after the break, the Trimboli and Barbaro combination looking fruitful in the 49th minute, with the hard working Foxes



Cobras Paul Karittevlis and Galaxy's Steven Kidd go up for the ball as Angelo Costanzo (left) and Michael Debono watch on. PHOTOS: ADAM BUTLER

defence preventing the goal for the dangerous pair. But the pendulum swung to the favour of the Foxes who went 2-1 up in the 58th, after the Devils were caught on the break, a ball won in defence and run through the midfield, timely passed forward for an opportunistic Brendan Macdonald to drill it past Pogliacomini. To their credit, Campbelltown replied quickly four minutes later care of wingman Domenic Signoriello, crossing a ball from left field to speedster Toure, who controlled it well and slotted the Devils second away and put the game at level pegging yet again.

With Cumberland United accessing the services of Adelaide United striker Lloyd Owusu watching intently from the sidelines as assistant coach, timely substitutions were made by both sides, the Foxes replaced tired legs for Sam Carmichael and Daniel Stuart in the 72nd and 74th minute. Red Devils coach Rocky Aloisi then counter substituted within minutes, Trimboli coming off for tall striker Alor Bulabek in the 75th and Marc Talbot replacing midfielder Stanko Zilic, the latter giving the boost that the Devils needed. Foxes made their final change in the 86th minute Charlie Bowman coming on for Jodie Loomes to enable their

'never-say-die' approach to the match to be kept alive. The match winner came in a turnaround in the 79th minute, after the Foxes were dispossessed and Campbelltown's Parhas was left with the ball in midfield, putting in a perfectly timed ball for Toure to get onto for his second of the match, his shot squeezing into smallest of gaps between the near post and a diving Atkins. After being around the mark for the last couple of seasons, Campbelltown coach Aloisi would be hoping that this puts his chargers in good stead for a decent crack at a Championship Title in 2010.

In other matches around the grounds Adelaide Cobras hosted Adelaide Galaxy, their first home match for their historical Super League Season ending in a 0-0 all draw. With a very vocal crowd showing much interest in A-Leaguer Angelo Costanzo, the Cobras fought off a relentless and physical Galaxy side, albeit the visitors being a man down midway through the first half. After Adelaide United Youth team player Joe Wright received his second yellow card within 30 minutes of the match and despite withstanding the physicality of the match, Maurice Natale's Cobras were unable to take advantage of the 10 man Galaxy

side. Galaxy coach Carl Maynard would have been left wondering how several chances didn't find the back of the net, newcomer Ben McLoughlin not capitalizing on a golden opportunity to slot away the winner right at the end of the match. Cobras keeper Nick Crossley and Costanzo both earned their votes for best players on the day for the home side.

In the night matches played Para Hills Knights were outdone 1-3 by a strong Adelaide Blue Eagles outfit at the Paddocks, the Knights only goal coming from an own goal scored by Eagles defender Dean Kenrick and sending the homeside into the bottom two positions on the league ladder. Known Striker Chad Bugeja scored himself a brace and Kym Harris yet again proved himself a young up-and-coming player to watch with his goal for the Eagles. The first up win is a much needed three points for Blue Eagles Coach Zoran Karadzic, who will now want his lads to continue on with this form for the remainder of the season.

Western Strikers bubble burst after their dream start to the 2010 season in the other night match that was played at Carnegie Reserve, the homeside succumbing

## SA RESULTS

Round 3 Results DEVINE HOMES SUPER LEAGUE	
Adelaide Cobras 0	Adelaide Galaxy 0
(HT 0-0)	
Best – Cobras (R.Calabria, N.Crossley, A.Costnazo)	
Galaxy (M.Doyle, M.Debono, S.Kidd)	
Res – Cobras 0	
Galaxy 6	
U19 – Cobras 2	
Galaxy 1	
Campbelltown City 3 (A.Toure 2, M.Paleka)	
Cumberland United 2 (B.Macdonald)	
(HT 1-1)	
Best – Campbelltown (D.Signoriello, V.Parhas, M.D'Aloisio)	
Cumberland (R.Macdonald, D.Carter, D.Atkins)	
Res – Campbelltown 4	
Cumberland 1	
U19 – Campbelltown 0	
Cumberland 1	
Para Hills 1 (T.O.G.)	
Adelaide Blue Eagles 3 (C.Bugeja 2, K.Harris)	
(HT 0-1)	
Best – Para Hills (M.Marchioro, B.Selga, A.Goulding)	
Blue Eagles (D.DiMella, F.Filietti, C.Bugeja)	
Res – Para Hills 0	Blue Eagles 1
U19 – Para Hills 0	Blue Eagles 3
Western Strikers 1 (M.Lastella)	
MetroStars 3 (J.Groves 2, S.Tunbridge)	
(HT 0-1)	
Best – Strikers (C.Middleton, S.Stefanopoulos, J.Spadavecchia)	
MetroStars (A.Van Dommele, S.Tunbridge, A.Ciarla)	
Res – Strikers 0	MetroStars 1
U19 – Strikers 0	MetroStars 1

Adelaide City vs Raiders  
Monday 12 April - 7:30pm  
Adelaide City Park, Corner Hilltop Drive & Fosters Road, OAKDEN

## NEXT ROUND

Round 4	
Sat 17/04/2010	
Adelaide Blue Eagles vs Adelaide Cobras	
3pm Marden Sports Complex	
Cumberland Utd vs Western Strikers	
3pm Bailey Reserve	
MetroStars vs Para Hills	
3pm T.K. Shutter Reserve	
Raiders vs Campbelltown	
3pm Croatian Sports Centre	
Adelaide Galaxy vs Adelaide City	
7pm Con Makris Park	

## LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
MetroStars	3	2	1	0	9	4	5	7
Campbelltown City	3	2	0	1	6	7	-1	6
Adelaide Galaxy	3	1	2	0	3	2	1	5
Adelaide City	2	1	1	0	3	2	1	4
Adelaide Cobras	3	1	1	1	4	4	0	4
Western Strikers	3	1	0	2	6	7	-1	3
Cumberland Utd	3	1	0	2	6	7	-1	3
Adelaide Blue Eagles	3	1	0	2	5	6	-1	3
Para Hills	3	0	2	1	3	5	-2	2
Raiders	2	0	1	1	2	3	-1	1

to the reigning champions MetroStars with a 1-3 loss. Lonely goal scorer for the Strikers was captain Michele Lastella while goals for the Stars came via trusty striker Scott Tunbridge and 'wonder boy' Jackson Groves bagging himself a double. MetroStars are now one of only three teams in the Super League that are yet to be defeated but that could all change after the big Monday night clash between Adelaide City and Raiders at Adelaide City Park Oakden. John Duthie's Raiders young chargers have had great results against the black and white powerhouse, defeating them 2-1 in the same round in 2009 and drawing in the return leg at home in round 12. Although new Adelaide City coach would be determined to trounce that record, the Raiders will be hoping to get the much needed three points to get them off the bottom of the ladder and back into the mix of things.



# Coast overcomes turbulence

By Jarrod Ellis

**Round 3 of the 2010 Hyundai QSL kicked off on Saturday night at an unexpected venue as Whitsunday Miners were forced to relocate their match against Brisbane Strikers to Rangers Soccer Grounds, Cremorne after the pitch at Magpies Sports Club was ruled too waterlogged to host the match.**

The Miners have been considered competition minnows since the inception of the QSL so it was a surprise to no-one that they were eventually downed 2-0 by Brisbane in a hard fought match with its share of controversies.

Whitsunday fielded an almost full strength side but was without the considerable talents of Kevin Nguyen and Ryan Evetts.

The Strikers made three changes to their starting eleven from their surprise loss to NQ Razorbacks with goalkeeper Seb Usai, midfielder Calum Hare and forward Sean Burke replacing Brendan White, Michael Angus and Jordan Farina.

The match itself began at a hectic pace with the ball bobbling about on the sub-standard pitch in between committed tackles from both sides.

Brisbane had the better of the first fifteen minutes, winning almost all of the 50-50 balls and gave the Miners' centre back

pairing of captain Brett Neeve and Ben Schaper plenty of work to do as Matt Thurtell and Chris Di Sipio fed off some well placed balls from deep and out wide.

The Miners weren't prepared to simply sit back and attempt to keep the score down and were unlucky not to take the lead when midfielder Daniel Scotton volleyed a shot towards the lower left hand corner of the net after a failed clearance from the Strikers, only to see keeper Seb Usai pull off a diving save.

Usai was called into action again shortly after as Whitsunday sought to take the lead against the run of play, Mark Rhodes sending in another volley on the Brisbane goal after Usai failed to adequately clear a lofted cross from Miners fullback Corey Hooper.

From there until the half play developed into a long ball contest as both sides sent searching balls over the top of each others back line, both in an effort to bypass the choppy midfield pitch and in hope that the forwards could capitalize on the now increasingly common 'unexpected' bounce.

The second half began as the first ended, long balls galore with little evidence of any likely end product. Whitsunday's Tyson Masters looked a possible stalemate breaker after breaking onto just one such ball but couldn't manage to get a shot on target from twelve yards out.

For a match that looked likely to end in

a bore draw dominated by sloppy play and route one football things were about to take an unexpected turn in the 60th minute.

It all began with Strikers forward Matt Thurtell receiving an excellent through ball into the area that saw him through on goal, Miners keeper Brad Moss the only man able to stop him.

Stopping him was exactly what Moss did as he rushed out, smothering his shot just in time but collided with Thurtell in the process. Moss then appeared to take exception to the contact, striking out at Thurtell with his forearm and catching him in the head. Referee Joshua Wale took immediate action, showing Moss a red card, in turn forcing Miners coach John Sowter to reshuffle his side and send on reserve keeper Brett Gutteridge.

The resultant free kick was deflected out for a corner and things were only about to get worse for the Miners. The corner was swung in towards the box, but was cleared and found its way out to Ben Griffin who sent the ball rocketing towards goal, hitting the underside of the crossbar before thudding into the ground and bouncing away.

Griffin's hand immediately went up to claim that the ball had crossed the line and the home crowd bayed its disapproval when the referee's assistant agreed with him and a goal was signaled.

Brisbane would themselves have a man

sent off only minutes later as Jordan Mason was shown a second yellow for a careless challenge.

From there on the match had an element of spite to it as both sides fought hard for the ball but it was to be the Strikers who would come out on top, scoring a second goal and securing the three points in the 79th minute.

Substitute Jordan Farina capitalized on an excellent set up from Thurtell by smashing the ball into the corner of Gutteridge's goal in a sublime first time effort from the youngster.

Elsewhere around the league the NQ Razorbacks continued their now traditional inconsistency by going down 3-1 to FNQ Bulls at Borzi Park in the first NQ derby of the year only a week after securing their first ever win against Brisbane.

The result shouldn't come as too much of a surprise though as the NQ derby is a typically hard-fought affair and the Bulls dominated their NQ rivals last year, securing a win and a draw where they were unlucky not to come away with all three points.

Competition leaders Sunshine Coast have had a turbulent week, reportedly releasing Mark Riley and rumours flying amongst the Queensland football community of post-game benders and dressing room tantrums.

They'll be looking to put all that behind them when they face Capricorn Cougars



# Floreat Add to Swan's Woes

By Ashley Morrison

**It was a baptism of fire for new Swan United coach Jamie Goodman, who stepped up to the role after Paul Lincoln, jumped ship to replace the sacked Mick Lyons at Stirling Lions, as his team took on a rampant Floreat Athena away at Floreat's Litis stadium.**

Swan started the better, as it appeared that Floreat was a little complacent. As early as the first minute it took the experience of player coach Ante Kovacevic to thwart Alex Cocking after Vatistas had given away possession cheaply.

Then good interplay between Cocking and Sammut looked to have unlocked the Floreat defence but Sammut pulled out of a challenge with Kovacevic and Floreat were able to clear.

In the opening quarter of an hour Swan were the dominant side, but suddenly Floreat clicked. Isaia according to the linesman beat the offside trap and was clear, but his pull back went to no one and Swan survived. In the 18th minute Floreat played a fast passage of inter-passing that resulted in Bachiller receiving the ball unmarked at the edge of the penalty box, but he scuffed his shot wide of the post.

Five minutes later Bachiller had another great opportunity to open the scoring, but this time his fierce drive was saved superbly by Agudelo in goal for Swan. A minute later he beat away a shot from Mikulic, as Floreat laid siege to his goal.

In the 24th minute Swan were lucky to survive a penalty appeal. Again a sweeping fast passing move from Floreat saw Mirco break into the box following a clever one-two with Neiderberger, he was body checked off the ball, yet referee Gregory to the amazement of many waved play on.

Floreat by now were well on top and with Swan giving up cheap possession in midfield always looked likely to score, it was just a matter of when. In the 30th minute Mirco slipped in behind the Swan defence and knocked the ball past Agudelo before being brought down by the 'keeper. Mikulic stepped up to take

the penalty and despite Agudelo diving the right way saw his strike nestle in the back of the net.

Two minutes after the start of the second half the game was all but sealed as Neiderberger passed to Mikulic at the edge of the box, and he slipped the ball into the path of Mirco, he dragged the defender to his right, making space on his left and fired a left foot shot past the despairing Agudelo.

In the 53rd minute Floreat made it three, when Bachiller played a long ball forward from inside his own half that Mikulic judged superbly, he brought the ball down on his chest, and then drilled it past Agudelo from just inside the penalty area.

It looked like a rout was on the cards as Floreat were totally dominating a Swan side that appeared to have lost interest. Their substitutes definitely had, who rather than warming up were leaning over the fence chatting to their mates, not even watching the game. It was in fact Floreat's impatience, despite the urging of Kovacevic to keep possession, that saw them cough up the ball in attack with poor decision making and poor passing.

In the 75th minute they should have had a fourth. Neiderberger picked up the ball inside his own half, and broke away from the Swan defenders. Agudelo came off his line, and Neiderberger breezed past him, with an open goal gaping ahead of him, he inexplicably blasted the ball into the side netting.

Three minutes later Floreat conceded a sloppy goal. Bachiller's attempted clearance under little pressure went straight up in the air, Cocking beat goalkeeper Dunn to the ball and headed goalwards, substitute Boland tried to poke the ball home but again it spun into the air off a Floreat player. Cocking made no mistake a second time heading into the empty net.

Time was running out for a come back, but against a better side Floreat could have rued their poor finishing.

They did push to restore their three-goal lead but were denied again by Agudelo. But with seven minutes left they did manage to find the back of the net. Substitute Modric Sims showed great pace to ease



Swan United James Sammut and Floreat Athena Paul Vatistas in action. PHOTO: PETER MARKHAM

past Rory Mouttet, before slipping the ball to Neiderberger just inside the penalty box, he spun past the defender and blasted the ball past Agudelo to make it 4-1.

Goodman has a tough task ahead of him, while despite the three points Ante Kovacevic will know that Floreat have to be more ruthless in front of goal and self-ish in terms of keeping possession if they are to finish the season as the league's premiers.

In other games, as mentioned, Stirling Lions, who upset many in local football last season by approaching other coaches before dismissing the incumbent coach Mick Lyons, did fire him after just three games last weekend. Games, which had seen the side come away with one win, one draw and one loss. Paul Lincoln replaced him within twenty-four hours and oversaw the team's second victory over

Cockburn City, who is now rooted to the bottom of the league ladder.

Newly promoted Balcatta remain unbeaten in the league following their 1-1 draw with Mandurah City, but the draw after coming from behind meant that the Western Knights, also unbeaten leapfrogged them on goal difference, following their 1-5 away victory over Inglewood united. Montgomery claiming a brace in that game.

Joondalup and Perth played what must have been the game of the round. A Matt Danskin hat trick securing a victory for Perth away from home 4-5. This was real see-saw game that saw Joondalup come back from a goal down to take the lead, Perth to equalise, Joondalup to take the lead again, only for Perth to move to a two goal advantage. John Thornley grabbed his hat trick for Joondalup in the last minute, but Perth prevailed by

LADDER										
	P	W	D	L	For	Ag	GD	Pts		
1	Sunshine Coast FC	3	3	0	0	12	6	6	9	
2	Brisbane Strikers	3	2	0	1	3	1	2	6	
3	FNQ Bulls	3	2	0	1	6	5	1	6	
4	NQ Razorbacks	3	1	1	1	2	3	-1	4	
5	QAofS	2	1	0	1	4	5	-1	3	
6	Bundaberg Spirit	3	0	1	2	1	3	-2	1	
7	Whitsunday Miners	2	0	1	1	0	2	-2	1	
8	Capricorn Cougars	3	0	1	2	2	5	-3	1	

NEXT ROUND										
ROUND 4										
Capricorn Cougars v Bundaberg Spirit										
Sat 17 April 7:00pm										
Brisbane Strikers v Sunshine Coast FC										
Sat 17 April 7:00pm										
NQ Razorbacks v Whitsunday Miners										
Sat 17 April 7:30pm										
QAS v FNQ Bulls										
Sun 18 April 2:00pm										

RESULTS										
Whitsunday Miners 0 Brisbane Strikers FC 2										
FNQ Bulls 3 NQ McDonald's Razorbacks 1										
Sunshine Coast FC 4 Capricorn Cougars 2										
Bundaberg Spirit 0 Queensland Academy of Sport 1										

at Stockland Park on Sunday afternoon. Sunshine Coast pulled off an impressive victory against QAS in Round 2, whilst the Cougars will be looking for their first win of the campaign after suffering a narrow loss to Brisbane and finding themselves unable to break the deadlock in a scoreless draw with Whitsunday Miners.

LADDER										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts		
1	Western Knights	4	3	1	0	13	6	7	10	
2	Balcatta	4	3	1	0	10	6	4	10	
3	Floreat Athena	4	3	0	1	15	6	9	9	
4	Perth SC	4	3	0	1	12	10	2	9	
5	Stirling Lions	4	2	1	1	4	3	1	7	
6	Armadale	4	1	2	1	7	4	3	5	
7	Sorrento	4	1	1	2	6	10	-4	4	
8	Mandurah City	4	1	1	2	3	9	-6	4	
9	Swan United	4	1	0	3	3	8	-5	3	
10	ECU Joondalup	4	1	0	3	8	11	-3	3	
11	Inglewood United	4	1	0	3	6	11	-5	3	
12	Cockburn City	4	0	1	3	2	5	-3	1	

WA RESULTS										
First Team										
Floreat Athena 4 (Mikulic 31, 53, Mirco 47, Neiderberger 83) Swan United 1 (Cocking 78); ECU Joondalup 4 (Thornley 19, 45, 90P, O'Callaghan 56) Perth SC 5 (Danskin 5, 54, OG 58, Oliveira 60, 75); Sorrento 0 Armadale 4 (Goodwin 30, J.Robinson 32, 77P, T. Robinson 39); Inglewood United 1 (Kovacevic 25) Western Knights 5 (Montgomery 6, 30, Van Dongen 59, Marcenko 85, David Micevski 92); Cockburn City 0 Stirling Lions 1 (Wilson 21); Balcatta 1 (Piromalli 70) Mandurah City 1 (Bower 22)										
Reserves										
Floreat Athena 0 Swan United 4; ECU Joondalup 2 Perth SC 3; Sorrento 2 Armadale 2; Inglewood United 3 Western Knights 2; Cockburn City 4 Stirling Lions 5; Balcatta 3 Mandurah City 2.										
Under 18's										
Floreat Athena 4 Swan United 2; ECU Joondalup 3 Perth SC 4; Sorrento 2 Armadale 3; Inglewood United 3 Western Knights 2; Cockburn City 2 Stirling Lions 0; Balcatta 2 Mandurah City 0.										

NEXT ROUND										
Round 5										
Sat 17 Apr 3PM Stirling Lions v Sorrento										
Macedonia Park										
Sat 17 Apr 3PM Swan United v ECU Joondalup										
Swan Italian Club										
Sat 17 Apr 3PM Western Knights v Mandurah City										
Nash Field										
Sat 17 Apr 3PM Perth SC v Inglewood United										
BGC Stadium - Dorrien Gardens										
Sat 17 Apr 3PM Cockburn City v Balcatta										
Dalmatinac Park										
Sat 17 Apr 6PM Armadale v Floreat Athena										
Alfred Skeet Oval										

a solitary goal. Worrying for last year's champions will be the fact that they have conceded ten goals in four games.

Wrapping up the results from this weekend Armadale stunned Sorrento by thrashing them 0-4 at home. This match was bound to have had a little extra meaning for Armadale as they recruited four players from Sorrento in the off-season.





# Canberra FC in eleventh heaven!

By Russ Gibbs

**Canberra FC kick started the defence of their ACT Premier League crown with an astonishing 11-1 annihilation of hapless Tuggeranong United at Deakin Stadium on Friday evening. The champions were in irrepressible form with ace striker Paul Ivanic striking twice inside the first seven minutes on the way to a personal haul of five goals as Canberra GC ran riot.**

Tuggeranong United was on the back foot for the majority of the match and were outclassed by their talented opponents who registered their highest ever score in the top flight, the result eclipsing last season's 9-0 rout of Woden Valley.

After Ivanic's quick fire double inside the opening ten minutes, the hosts had to wait until the cusp of half-time before Adam Spaleta fired home the third goal. Immediately after the interval Canberra FC was able to extend their lead with a brace of goals from midfielder John Glass and thereafter goals rained in at regular intervals as the tally mounted.

Ivanic added a second half hat-trick to complete his nap hand, whilst striker Michael Spaleta weighed in with a late brace with a luckless own goal complete the thrashing. United's sole response was a 74th minute strike from Steve Oxford which offered little consolation to Coach Darren Viskovich and the travelling Tuggeranong support.

Last season's beaten finalists, Belconnen United, was made to work hard for the three points in their opening clash

of the season as they defeated Woden Valley 3-2 at McKellar Park. The Blue Devils led 2-0 at the break after goals from Dustin Wells and David Arranz gave them the perfect start.

New US import, Carlos Salazar, opened his Woden Valley account after the half-time break, slotting home from a penalty, before Belconnen striker Tai Smith delighted the home fans as he made it 3-1. Lukas Cole reduced the deficit again shortly afterwards and Woden powered forward looking for an equaliser, but unfortunately for the Valley club they ran out of time in a gallant effort.

Canberra City was forced to come from a goal behind to gain all three points in a 2-1 win over ANU FC. The students led after eleven minutes when Futsalroo international Tom Rogic opened the scoring and held on until eleven minutes into the second half. City stopper David Dexter levelled the scores before new recruit Misko Naumoski poached the winner four minutes later. The match ended on a sour note for ANU FC when their captain, John Gibson, went off with what appeared to be ankle ligament damage.

Federation Cup finalists Goulburn Strikers could not replicate their feats of pre-season when they surprisingly were beaten at home by fellow Premier League newcomers Monaro Panthers. The crowd at Cookbundoon, Strikers home ground, had seen Daniel Aliffi give Goulburn the lead only for former Canberra FC and Queanbeyan City striker Nathan Walker to level for the Panthers. Central lynchpin Justin

Selkirk, latterly of O'Connor Knights, struck the much-needed winner for Monaro who put aside pre-season woes to claim the victory.

In the late kick off Canberra Olympic came out on top over Cooma Tigers by the odd goal in five claiming a 3-2 win in new Coach Dean Ugrinic's first match in charge. Ugrinic replaces Ian Heywood who resigned in the wake of Olympic's 0-4 Federation Cup quarter final defeat to ten-man Belconnen United and watched as his side wasted numerous chances against the Tigers.

The match was Tigers first in the Premier League since their 2006 Grand Final triumph against the same opposition, but the Cooma based side were unable to repeat that feat at Hawker Football Centre.

Midfielder Andrew Ross gave Olympic the lead before Daniel Gecic equalised for the Tigers just after half-time. Futsalroo international Trent Flanigan restored Olympic's lead after 51 minutes only for Tony Aleksovski to level the match again some five minutes later. Dominic Giamapolo's 67th minute goal ultimately proved the winner but Olympic should have had several more.

## WODEN VALLEY SCORES OPENING WIN TO LEAD THE WAY

In the Women's Premier League Woden Valley lead the way after one round with their 3-0 victory over ANU WFC enough to see them at the top of the fledgling ladder. Sally Rojahn, Emma Thornton (penalty) and Isabella Boag-

Taylor struck for Woden who are looking to replicate their minor premiership success of 2009. The beaten Federation Cup finalists couldn't have asked for a better start against a spirited ANU WFC.

Woden's Federation Cup conquerors Belwest Foxes have started the season in ominous form with a comfortable 2-0 win over Tuggeranong United. The Premier League 'newbies' battled hard and restricted the title favourites to a goal in each half as Snez Veljanovska, from the penalty spot, was joined on the score sheet by Tahlia Stanley as the Foxes claimed maximum points.

Canberra FC also had a victory to savour on the opening weekend of action as the Deakin based side ran out 3-1 winners over Brindabella Blues. Canberra United W-League player, Grace Gill, struck twice for Canberra FC with Aurelia Bullo adding the third goal in the routine victory.

In the final match of the first round of Premier League fixtures title contenders Weston Creek and Belconnen United fought out a goal less stalemate. Chances were few and far beaten in the match between two evenly matched teams with a point apiece a decent outcome for coaches Robbie Mason (Weston Creek) and Antoni Jagarinec (Belconnen United).

Action continues in both the men's and women's Premier League competitions next weekend with Round Two of the Gatorade Premier League and Women's Premier League as football action in Canberra hots up.

## ACT RESULTS

### Gatorade Premier League Round One

Canberra FC 11 (Paul Ivanic 5', 7', 58', 61', 78', Adam Spaleta 45', John Glass 48', 50', own goal 67', Michael Spaleta 80', 92') Tuggeranong United 1 (Steve Oxford 74')

ANU FC 1 (Tom Rogic 11') Canberra City 2 (David Dexter 56', Misko Naumoski 60')

Belconnen United 3 (Dustin Wells, David Arranz, Tai Smith) Woden Valley 2 (Carlos Salazar (pen), Lukas Cole)

Goulburn Strikers 1 (Daniel Aliffi) Monaro Panthers 2 (Nathan Walker, Justin Selkirk)

Canberra Olympic 3 (Andrew Ross 36', Trent Flanigan 51', Dominic Giampaolo 67') Cooma Tigers 2 (Daniel Gecic 46', Tony Aleksovski 56')

### Women's Premier League Round One

Canberra FC 3 (Grace Gill (2, 1 pen), Aurelia Bullo) Brindabella Blues 1 (Laura Johnson)

ANU WFC 0 Woden Valley 3 (Sally Rojahn, Emma Thornton (pen), Isabella Boag-Taylor)

Weston Creek 0 Belconnen United 0

Belwest Foxes 2 (Snez Veljanovska (pen), Tahlia Stanley) Tuggeranong United 0

## NEXT ROUND

### Round 2

Fri 16 Apr KO 8pm Canberra Olympic v Belconnen Utd  
Hawker Football Centre

Sat 17 Apr KO 3pm Tuggeranong Utd v Monaro Panthers  
Kambah 2-1

Sun 18 Apr KO 3pm Canberra FC v Canberra City  
Deakin Stadium (Deakin Oval)

Sun 18 Apr KO 3pm Goulburn Strikers v Woden Valley  
Cookbundoon

Sun 18 Apr KO 3pm Cooma Tigers v ANU FC  
Nijong Oval

## LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
1 Canberra FC	1	1	0	0	11	1	+10	3
2 Belconnen United	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	3
3 Canberra Olympic	1	1	0	0	3	2	+1	3
4 Canberra City	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
5 Monaro Panthers	1	1	0	0	2	1	+1	3
6 Cooma Tigers	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
7 Woden Valley	1	0	0	1	2	3	-1	0
8 ANU FC	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
9 Goulburn Strikers	1	0	0	1	1	2	-1	0
10 Tuggeranong Utd	1	0	0	1	1	11	-10	0



Ivan Pavlak (Canberra FC winger).  
PHOTO BY RUSS GIBBS



Paul Ivanic (on left of picture, five goals for Canberra FC)  
PHOTO BY RUSS GIBBS

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# WPL commences new season

By Niki Cook

The Victorian Women's Premier League kicked off this weekend, with all teams playing their Round One matches at DISC in something of a gala opening to the season. For the second year running, the competition will feature just nine teams, with only last year's State League 1 winner, Altona City, joining the top flight. Clearly the lure of playing in the state's highest division was not that strong, as no other club was willing to accept promotion to the WPL. So, with the season in its early stages, it's time to look at the season ahead.

Last year's Grand Finalists, Box Hill Inter and Heidelberg United again look to be the teams to beat, with both clubs fielding similar or stronger squads to last season. The two have played off in the last four Grand Finals, and so have been the benchmarks of the competition for some years now. News that will be no comfort to the other eight teams in the competition: Box Hill in particular looks even stronger, with the bulk of the Melbourne Victory W-League players now playing at the club. Ashburton may be one team to challenge them, having been there or thereabouts for several seasons, although unable to perform when it comes to the finals. It missed out on finals last season for the first time, so it will feel it has a lot to prove in the 2010 season as it seeks to bounce back quickly.

South Melbourne had its most successful year in the WPL last year, finishing third and making the preliminary final. Having undergone some changes in personnel during the off season, its challenge will be to see whether it can maintain the standards it set last year and again challenge for a place at the top. Sandringham, the other finalist in 2009, will also be looking to be a contender again come finals time. Its young squad has had the benefit of playing together consistently for a number of seasons, which tends to stand it in good stead in tough matches. Casey Comets, which missed out on finals at the last gasp last year, is another team which will fancy its chances of challenging for a finals berth. It has undergone a couple of seasons of rebuilding, but could 2010 be the season when its new crop of youngsters start to produce consistently and drive their team back into the upper reaches of the ladder?

After flying high in 2008, Preston Lions was brought back down to earth with a bump last season, finishing in seventh on the ladder. It won just two matches for the whole season, but did produce several upset draws against tough opposition. It has lost several players over the off season, and has appointed a new coach, so it remains to be seen whether he can turn their fortunes around. Bendigo Vipers also found the going hard last season, with only a late flurry saving it from the risk of relegation. It showed that its team has the grit and determination to produce results when the chips are down, but whether it can produce results consistently across a season is a different story. Altona City, the newcomer to the league, is an unknown quantity as yet. History indicates that teams that are promoted to the WPL more often than not find the going extremely tough, and usually make a swift return to State League 1. Altona does have the advantage of a team that has played together over a number of years, plus it has picked up several players with WPL experience, but will it be



Box Hill's Aleksandra Sinclair (left) and Sophie Findlay in a close encounter  
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Christine Fonua (Altona) stands her ground as Beejay Alpozgen (HUFC) clatters into her.  
PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON



Opening day WPL action between Sandringham (claret) and Bendigo. PHOTO: JOHN PUNSHON

enough to avoid the dreaded drop?

A blustery DISC was the venue for Round 1 of the 2010 WPL season, with all four matches taking place on the artificial pitches. Ashburton was the only team not to play, with it enjoying an extra week of preparation, as it had the bye in the opening round. Altona City faced a tough test in its first ever WPL match, taking on defeated Grand Finalist, Heidelberg United. It proved a turbulent match, and perhaps not quite as comfortable as Heidelberg

may have expected, with Altona providing a contest throughout. Scoreless at half time, the bulk of the action came in the second half, with United scoring twice. Last year's Golden Boot winner, Melanie Camilleri opened her account five minutes after half time, with Michelle Verzi doubling the advantage twenty minutes later. The match took a dramatic turn shortly before the second goal, with United goalkeeper, Katie Neville, shown a straight red card for bringing down an Altona player. Box Hill Inter showed its strength with

an impressive second half display to account for South Melbourne, and finish Round 1 in familiar territory at the top of the WPL ladder. The game was goalless at half time, with South having had the best chance of the half, with Emma Johnson forcing Melissa Barbieri into a save at her near post. The second half, however, was dominated by Inter, with two quick goals after the interval from Georgia Oudemans and Lauren Farrugia putting it in the ascendancy. Aleksandra Sinclair added a third twenty minutes from time, and Louisa Bisby rounded

## WPL RESULTS

Heidelberg Utd 2  
(M Verzi M Camilleri)  
Altona City 0

South Melbourne Womens 0  
Box Hill Inter 4  
(A Sinclair L Farrugia G Oudemans L Bisby)

Sandringham 1  
(E Runnalls)  
Bendigo Vipers 0

Reserves:  
Heidelberg Utd 3 Altona City 1,  
South Melbourne 0 Box Hill Inter 3,  
Sandringham 2 BASL 0, Casey Comets 2  
Preston Lions 0

## WPL NEXT ROUND

Bendigo Vipers v Box Hill Inter  
Epsom Huntly Recreational Reserve  
Sat 17 Apr KO 3:00PM

South Melbourne v Heidelberg Utd  
Mclvor Reserve  
Sun 18 Apr KO 1:00PM

Altona City v Ashburton  
HC Kim Reserve  
Sun 18 Apr KO 1:00PM

Sandringham v Preston Lions  
Kingston Heath Soccer Complex  
Mon 19 Apr KO 8:30PM

Bye v Casey Comets

## WPL LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Box Hill Inter	1	1	0	0	4	0	3	3
Heidelberg Utd	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	3
Sandringham	1	1	0	0	1	0	3	3
Bye	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ashburton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Preston Lions	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Casey Comets	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bendigo Vipers	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Altona City	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
South Melbourne	1	0	0	1	0	4	0	0

## WPL RESERVES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pts
Box Hill Inter	1	1	0	0	3	0	3	3
Heidelberg Utd	1	1	0	0	3	1	3	3
Casey Comets	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	3
Sandringham	1	1	0	0	2	0	3	3
Ashburton	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Altona City	1	0	0	1	1	3	0	0
BASL	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
Preston Lions	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0
South Melbourne	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	0

off the scoring with nine minutes remaining.

Sandringham scraped past Bendigo Vipers with a 1-0 victory, thanks to an Emma Runnalls goal. Her strike on the half hour was all that separated the two teams. In the round's late kick off, Casey Comets also enjoyed a narrow victory, edging our Preston Lions with a first half goal.

Next weekend the action begins in the country, when Bendigo Vipers hosts Box Hill Inter at Epsom Huntly Recreation Reserve on Saturday, before Ashburton finally joins the fray when it plays Altona City, in the first WPL match at HC Kim Reserve. Also on Sunday, South Melbourne will face another tough match, when it welcomes Heidelberg United to Mclvor Reserve, while on Monday night, Sandringham meets Preston Lions at Kingston Heath Soccer Complex. Casey Comets has the Round 2 bye.





# V-LEAGUE

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## PREMIERSHIP

Souvlaki Hut FOz Cup  
Semi Finals



# Promotion Battles & Cup Contests

By Adam Hussein

**After 18 rounds of Sunday State League Championship Action, Hume won direct promotion to the V-League. Mickleham, Brimbank & Collingwood all won the right to play off against Melbourne University, Geelong & Albert Park for vital spots in the prestigious LE-GEA V-League. With the first leg out of the way the second legs took place last night; here are the results & reports.**

**FC Geelong 6 - 16 Brimbank FC**  
(1st leg: FCG 1-8 BFC & 2nd leg FCG 5-8 BFC)

This match was always going to be hotly contested between two sides hanging to play in the V-League. FC Geelong beat FC Melbourne two seasons ago to earn their spot in the V-League in the same qualifiers that Brimbank lost to Melbourne Uni on golden goal. Brimbank, filled with solid & technically sound players were definitely the hungrier of the two and they raced out of the blocks quickest in the first leg. The first half was a close contest with both sides missing multiple chances before Brimbank pounced and piled on the goals. They demolished Geelong and left them in disarray going into the second leg.

Brimbank had learnt the lessons of their previous failed attempt, and after 18 rounds of State league action, outplayed a disheartened FC Geelong. They scored several orthodox futsal goals rolling off target & finishing at the back post. Geelong looked a broken side half-way through the second leg, with Bond in goals fighting to the finish. FCG tried using the 5th man but to no avail, experimenting was left too little too late, Geelong saved their best games for the last 6 rounds of the V-League but looked burnt out in the qualifiers. It's a warm welcome to Brimbank FC who could prove to be quite a thorny side to beat next season.

**Albert Park FC 11-8 FC Collingwood**

(1st leg ABFC 5-5 FCC & 2nd leg ABFC 6-3 FCC)

The two sides praying to play each other, with Albert Park avoiding Brimbank & FC Collingwood avoiding Melbourne University. Both games lacked the intensity required to play in the V-League but they still made for interesting games

with the first leg finishing 5-5 after a to & fro battle between two tentative sides. Neither side had the intent to win, Cameron Holmes was the only shining late for Collingwood & Brendan Chen was Albert Park's saviour in goals. Albert Park survived on goal difference amazingly last season and it was going to be a nervy 40 minutes for the side that had another up and down year.

The second leg saw Albert Park bring in two vital inclusions, Rob Melvin from Monday 1st division side Sons of the System & season irregular Minja Savic who has plenty of outdoor pedigree. He morphed into a futsal class act scoring four vital goals saving Albert Park's blushes and breaking the hearts of a valiant Collingwood side. Jason Cheong was counting his lucky stars to finish 4th in the state league and be given a crack at V-League opposition, but his luck came undone when Milos Nikaljevic & Dejan 'Deckie' Dragic got on the scoresheets late in the second half to seal the deal for the royal blue outfit.

**Mickleham FC 7-3 Melb University**  
(1st leg MFC 4-1 MUFC & 2nd leg MFC 3-2 MUFC)

The Victorian Premier League star-studded Mickleham FC took on Melbourne University, a side that has spent most of its V-League life in the bottom half of the table. Mickleham added flavour to the State League Championship with several young guns & large crowds attending games. They were fresh from a 3 week break and hungrier then ever to dismantle Melbourne University who fielded over 20 players over two legs. They got off to a good start winning 4-1 in the first leg in front of a raucous crowd. Apostolakis was brilliant in goal for Mickleham with Dusan Bosnjak's class in front of goal telling as the scholars looked down and out after 40 frustrating minutes with only a goal to show for it.

The second leg saw Melbourne Uni fight for dear life with superstar striker Duke Duva in goals, this allowed him to take shots from half court with slightly less pressure and it almost paid off with two shots saved and one clipping the bar. It did detract from Melbourne Uni's firepower up front though with Udit Dahwan a lonely presence. Mickleham were without several players due to outdoor commitments and you have to wonder if this is going to hurt their V-League crusade. They got through 3-2 in the second

leg and 7-3 overall. Its going to be interesting to see how Mickleham go in the 2010 V-League season.

## Souvlaki Hut FOz Cup

*Semi Finals Review*

*7th of April*

The Souvlaki Hut Cup was back in town after a long and event filled wait. The cup rewards the V-Leagues top 8 finishers with a second chance at silverware and prize money. Last year Prahran beat Essendon in a thriller in front of a large buzzing crowd. This year may prove to be even better then the last with 8 stronger teams and a \$3000 kitty of cash to play for! Its semi finals teams as we see the last 4 battle it out for the cup lets see how the action unfolded.



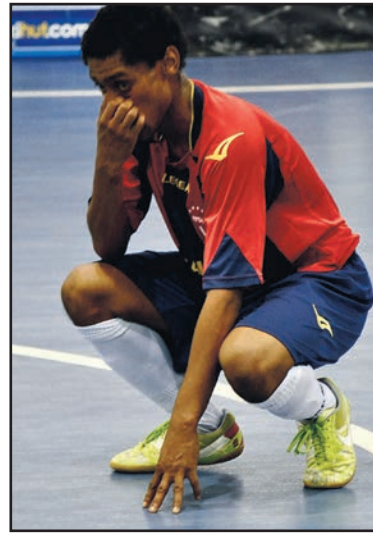
Pascoe Vale are staring down a lucrative double

### (1st) Pascoe Vale FC 6 vs 3 FC Prahran (4th)

09/10 Champions Pascoe Vale FC took on last seasons cup winners FC Prahran in a do or die clash to reach the final. This game was played at an electrifying pace in the opening minutes, and after good play from Barbosa Junior & Simsek (PVFC) & good save from Shakhonov (FCP) the ball struck Lazetic (FCP) on the shin and rolled in for an own goal. Simsek then scored a screamer right into the top left hand corner for 2-0 before Maxim Avram scored a decent double, one from a central area, the other wide hard pressed against the line scoring in off the back post.

Barbosa Junior was a handful for Mogai & Lazetic taking them on down the line multiple times before cutting in and dribbling up the by line providing penetrating passes. Tomislav Grgic (PVFC)

was a bit off color but still kept Haider Noor (FCP) at bay, and when Tommo was beaten, Lascaris (PVFC) did well to save. Even without Mesquita, Sastre & Lamanda Pascoe Vale showed why they are champions, with the little depth they had left in Fruscalzo, they soldiered on for a memorable win. Prahran can be proud of their efforts, they fell away late and didn't look like getting back in the game, but did remarkably well to finish 4th and look set for a similar position next season.



Mogai is crestfallen as Prahran are eliminated.

### (2nd) North Melb FC 4 vs 7 Metropolitan FC (8th)

Futsal Juggernaut North Melbourne met their match in Metropolitan FC in the second mouth-watering semi final of the night. North Melbourne, coached by Milton Sakkos has been the benchmark futsal team in Victoria for several years. Metropolitan (essentially the St Albans team) Melbourne Futsal League champions & V-League newcomers have developed their own style of the game with solid raw power from the back combined with clever interplay up forward.

It was the Redzepovic brothers up forward, always looking for each other, that proved the biggest obstacle for North. Persistent 1-2's and Dino finding space at the back post caused havoc for Waterfield, Mu & Rasoulzadeh in goal for North. Mirza Pedic opened the nights scoring with an amazing left foot volley

**SOUVLAKI HUT FOz Cup  
GRAND FINAL  
Wed 14th of April - 8:45pm**

**PASCOE VALE FC vs.  
METROPOLITAN FC**

**Dont Miss It!  
407 Victoria Street, Brunswick**

**Group 2  
Round 2 Knock Out Results  
Wed March 7**

**•9:30 2nd Nth Melbourne FC v 6th  
Metropolitan FC 4 - 7**

**•8:45 1st Pascoe Vale FC v 4th FC  
Prahran 6 - 3**

## FOz Cup Golden Boot

**Haider Noor 9 Goals  
Maxim Avram 7 Goals  
Ernie Simsek 6 Goals  
Alija Redzepovic 4 goals  
Dino Redzepovic 4 goals**

## Transfers

Now open R 22, 09-10  
& closes R3 2010

1. D.Rasoulzadeh FCC to Nth Melb FC
2. H.Hassanikhoo FCC to Nth Melb FC
3. I.Zilic FCE to Metropolitan FC
4. I.Filipovic APFC to FC Essendon
5. N.Delithodoros NMFC to FC Carlton
6. B.Polatti FCC to Fitzroy FC
7. S.Issa MFC to Ashburton FC

across his body inside 15 seconds. It was a goal for goal tussle until Metropolitan broke away late in the second half. Vital and clever subs by Alia Redzepovic (MFC) kept his guns fresh in the second half and they stormed on to vital effect. Sakkos brought on superstar De Moraes with 5 minutes to go in search for an equalizer, but he could do nothing but watch as Metropolitan stormed to a famous victory. Fernando showed a glimpse of brilliance with a left foot screamer into the top corner. But this was to be Metropolitan's night and set up a tantalizing cup final.

PHOTOS BY  
MATT MONTGOMERY



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OAKLEIGH CANNONS



MELBOURNE KNIGHTS



#### Match Details:

**Oakleigh:**  
G.McMaster, J.Cumming,  
J.Fitzgerald, S.Dracos,  
L.Palinic (N.Kalmar 76'),  
B.Obradovic (B.Damianos 60'),  
R.Diacio, C.Watson, M.Curcija,  
A.Dracos, N.Antic.

**Goals:** None  
**Yellow cards:** A.Dracos 70'.

**Knights:**  
A.Loncaric, B.Surey,  
A.Bran, D.Rocco, L.Cannell  
(R.Filipovic 85'), J.Magdic,  
K.Townson, A.Zahra, T.Skara,  
J.Dubois (T.Ples 65'), G.Ajdini  
(J.Colosimo 78').

**Goals:** Dubois 64', Colosimo  
90+1'.  
**Yellow cards:** Dubois 57',  
Surey 71', Skara 75'.

**Crowd:** 1000  
**Venue:** Jack Edwards Reserve

# Who moved the Knights Stadium to Oakleigh?

By John Lister

**So it appeared on Friday night as a quicker, sharper and hungrier Melbourne Knights inflicted the Oakleigh Cannons first loss of the Premier League season.**

Goals to elusive striker Jean Dubois and substitute Jacob Colosimo sent the Knights fans home happy along the Monash Freeway to the western suburbs, though they seemed quite happy at the Jack Edwards Reserve where they were the only ones making any noise.

Fresh from their first win of the season against Richmond before the Easter break, the Knights showed they will be a threat this season with an attacking brand of soccer that had the Cannons on the back foot for most of the night.

Dubois, English midfielder Kevin Townson and central defenders Anthony Bran and Thomas Skara were the Knights' heroes, standing up whenever the Cannons threatened to take control.

Bran and Skara, both giants, had the measure of Oakleigh's smaller forward line all night, snuffing out any moves in the air or on the ground before they started.

Townson, who came to the Knights this season from Dandenong City along with coach Ivan Duzel always threatened when running at the Cannons' defence while Dubois's paces bothered Oakleigh's back four of Stelios Dracos, James Cumming, John Fitzgerald and Neven Antic.

Though Cannons' coach John Anastasiadis credited the Knights for being better on the night, the home side did have some excuses.

Star striker Jerry Karpeh had been in Thailand for most of the week having trials for a national league team, not returning to Australia until Friday morning.

Anastasiadis left him on the bench until the last 15 minutes. Midfielder Scott Webster was also absent with a stomach complaint.

Said Anastasiadis: "But the Knights were sharp and took their chances well, they were probably the best team we have played this season. Until we started playing the ball along the ground we were not able to create that many chances."

Karpeh made a startling difference when Anastasiadis brought him on. Immediately the Knights were on edge and several chances went begging in the final stages.

But when the Cannons pressed forward they were caught on the break with Colosimo slotting the ball past Griffin McMaster in the 90th minute after latching on to a long ball.

Knights' coach Ivan Duzel was more than happy.

"I needed a couple of weeks to get things settled down, as I said at the start of the season. I am pretty sure that from now on we are going to have a positive season."

"We looked good all night and took our chances."

He praised Townson for being positive when going forward and Dubois for never giving up and taking several knocks, which were the reason he was substituted after scoring.

The two worked together to score the all important first goal. Townson picked up on the ball after it was given away in midfield, drove forward and created space on the left for a good cross for Dubois who had slipped his markers.

The Knights will hope Dubois has recovered before Sunday's clash with South Melbourne at Knights Stadium while Oakleigh will want to get their season back on track when they meet Hume City at Broadmeadows Valley Park.



Melbourne Knights' Kevin Townson tries to shield the ball from Stelios Dracos. PHOTO BY PETER KAKALIAS



Action between Oakleigh Cannons and Melbourne Knights on Friday night at Jack Edwards Reserve. PHOTO BY PETER KAKALIAS



An Oakleigh player tries to get a cross over. PHOTO BY PETER KAKALIAS

Melbourne Knights Championship Reunion

Sunday May 16th 2010

Knights Stadium  
2 Somers St. North Sunshine

2pm - Melbourne Knights Youth vs. Green Gully Youth  
4pm - Melbourne Knights vs. Green Gully (VPL Game)

6:30pm 1994/95 Champions Squad

Coached by Mirko Bazic

vs. 1995/96 Champions Squad

Coached by Ian Dobson



Melbourne Knights Championship Reunion

Saturday May 15th 2010

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72 Whitehal Street, Footscray

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Master of Ceremonies Andy Paschalidis

Special Guests including the complete Championship teams

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BENTLEIGH GREENS

1

GREEN GULLY

3

Bentleigh:

C.Henry, G.Stavridis, C.Smart,  
S.De Vito, C.Anthopoulos,  
A.Rojas, D.Lonvancic,  
D.Aililovic, J.Webster,  
J.Sapasovski, A.Ouliaris.

Goals: Damir Lonvancic 40'

Yellow Cards: George Stavridis, Con Anthopoulos, Anthony Ouliaris

Red Cards: Con Anthopoulos, Denis Alilovic

Green Gully:

N.Roganovic, R.Ollerton,  
S.Burton, D.Jones,  
M.Medjedovic,  
J.Groenewald(N.Robinson),  
J.Fleming, G.Wales(M.Sanders),  
G.Hockless(M.Anderson),  
A.Vargas, J.Munoz.

Goals: Gary Wales 15', Joshua Groenewald 25', Matthew Sanders 75'

Yellow Cards: Jonathan Munoz

Man of the Match:

Steven Burton (Gully)

Crowd: 500

# Cavaliers Resurrected, Bentleigh Crucified

By Markian Jaworsky

**The Easter break has come at the right time for the Green Gully Cavaliers, allowing the team to regroup and bounce back away to the Bentleigh Greens.**

With early goals from Gary Wales and Joshua Groenewald, Bentleigh saw red twice in frustration, before substitute Matthew Sanders scored the third goal in a 1-3 away win.

Coach Paul Harris took the team sheet to the shredders after the disappointing 1-3 home loss to Altona Magic.

Four changes to the starting lineup saw goalkeeper Nikola Roganovic make his league debut in goals, Daniel Jones also make his league debut in central defense, along with the return of Jonathan Munoz and Joshua Groenewald.

Gary Wales scored his third goal in as many games with an early speculative header. Early in the game, it was a much tighter and more shapely looking Cavalier outfit, that Bentleigh had trouble breaking down, and trouble defending against.

On the twenty fifth minute mark, Joshua Groenewald powered a long range effort at stand-in Bentleigh goalkeeper Clifford Henry, who failed to hang onto the ball, and could only watch in horror as

the spilt ball trickled over the Bentleigh goalline. Just prior, Gully's Steven Burton rattled Clifford's crossbar with a thunderbolt freekick from twenty five yards.

Tensions boiled over in the Bentleigh camp after Gully's second goal. Denis Alilovic kicked out at Gully's Jonathan Munoz in front of the referee, earning himself a straight red card. Oddly enough, the red card sparked Bentleigh into attacking mode and the home side scored a goal against the run of play via Damir Lonvancic on the forty minute mark. After halftime,

Bentleigh blew another fuse. Con Anthopoulos received two yellow cards in ten minutes to get his marching orders on the 55th minute mark of the match.

The Cavaliers had to work hard for their third goal and it finally came in the 75th minute when substitute Matthew Sanders converted another substitute's cross of Nick Robinson. Sanders could have had a second goal, butwith just the keeper to beat, Sanders struck the up-right.

Speaking after the match, Gully Coach Paul Harris spoke of the team's new focus on structure, and desire to start winning games at home. In the Under 21's, the Green Gully youngsters lost 2-1 to the Bentleigh Greens.



Main picture: Matthew Sanders puts away the sealer from a pass by Nick Robinson (#11). The Bentleigh defence can only sit and watch. Above: Graham Hockless has his work cut out trying to keep possession as Craig Smart (left) and Jack Webster apply the pressure. PHOTOS: JOHN PUNSHON



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#### Match Details:

**Richmond:** S.Gal, A.Viola, D.Tsiaras (T.Uskok 72'), J.Krnecvic, A.Tabor (D.van't Schip 50'), D.Visevic (M.Lujic 90'), D.Scullion, A.Kovacic, M.Catalano, L.Ryan, T.Milardovic.

**Goal:** Krnecvic 45'

**Yellow Cards:** None

**Red Cards:** None

**Hume City:** L.Acevski, S.Pir, F.Dilizia, M.Karakilic, A.Opazo, D.Delic, R.Cardozo (T.Sumbul 45'), T.Baser, M.Bosevski (A.Catak 55'), G.Talevski (J.Nakic 59'), Z.Petrevski.

**Goal:** Opazo 59'

**Yellow Cards:** None

**Red Cards:** None

**Man of the Match:** Antun Kovacic (Richmond)

**Venue:** Kevin Bartlett Reserve  
**Crowd:** 300

# Eagles hold high flying Hume

By Mark Boric

**FRIDAY** night saw fourth-placed Richmond host league leaders Hume City.

Hume's former A-League players Steven Pace and Isyan Erdogan were absent through injury, joining longer-term casualties Ross Thompson and Brendan Beni on the sidelines. Richmond made one change to the starting line-up which lost to the Melbourne Knights, introducing Alex Tabor at the expense of Tom Uskok to make for a bold attacking formation against the highflying Hume.

Richie Cardozo got an early opportunity on goal against his old club, lining up a free kick outside the corner of the penalty area which went a just little over the crossbar in the third minute. There was little goalmouth action in the early stages, Richmond's first chance arising after sixteen minutes when Dimitri Tsiaras played the ball out to David Scullion on the left who crossed for Tabor at the near post, with the diving header rising over the bar. After a foul on Tabor five minutes later, Daniel Visevic's free kick was also headed over, this time by Jesse Krnecvic.

On the half hour mark Dusko Delic cut in from the left after receiving the ball from a throw in but his shot from the edge of the area blazed high and wide of the goal. A quick turnover saw him test Stjepan Gal a minute later, the Richmond keeper pulling off a good save to deny

him the opening goal. In the thirty-fourth minute Hume recieved a free kick near the box when Michael Catalano handballed in clearing, but Zoran Petrevski put the chance wide.

Late in the half the home side pegged Hume back in the right corner for a good spell, Scullion making one notable run beating men before being stopped on the edge of the box. When a long throw was cleared only as far Tsiaras, the Richmond captain picked out the unmarked Krnecvic in the middle of the penalty area with a neat chip. Krnecvic brought the ball under control and struck it past Lou Acevski to give the Eagles the lead in the final minute before the break.

In the first minute of the second half a strong run from Scullion saw him appealing for a penalty as he went down under a challenge in the box. From the clearance it appeared Krnecvic was fouled but referee Bruno D'Aniello waved play on, Visevic picking up the loose ball and shooting just over the crossbar whilst his teammates argued with the official.

Hume substitute Turhan Sumbul, on for the injured Cardozo, headed a cross from the left over the goal two minutes later. The game was failing to reach any great heights but was proving a solid contest. A chip from Catalano saw Acevski drop the ball under pressure from Krnecvic in the fifty-sixth minute, but was able to regather it quickly.

It was from a corner in the fifty-ninth minute that Hume City would draw

themselves back on level terms. Sumbul headed the ball across the goal from the far post for the unmarked Opazo to head home. The last half hour of the game would prove to be the best, as the game opened up with both teams seeking a winning goal.

A run from substitute Davey van't Schip came to an end with a handball on the edge of the box, Visevic striking the wall with the free kick. Hume went close from a corner again in the sixty-ninth minute, with a shot blocked at the far post. Opazo then had a shot deflected wide for yet another corner. A quick counter attack saw Visevic bring the ball through the middle of the pitch before slipping the ball to van't Schip on his left, who's attempt to curl it into the top corner was well high and wide.

A corner for Richmond in the seventy-seventh minute saw substitute Uskok head wide. From a throw Scullion got down the line and cut into towards the box before sending in a cross which van't Schip narrowly missed meeting with a desperate slide. There was a good spell for Richmond, with Liam Ryan having a shot which lead to the ball bouncing around the penalty area, Scullion's effort blocked as he tried to turn it in with a flick.

The Eagles best chance to win the game would fall in the eighty-second minute. A run by Krnecvic down the right produced a dangerous early ball to Catalano in the middle, but he shot into

Acevski and had his effort from the rebound saved as well.

Hume substitute Jake Nakic sliced a shot after a cross from the left behind him as Hume began to put more pressure on Richmond, for whom in defence Antun Kovacic was having his best game of the season. When Richmond turned the ball over at a free kick, appealing to referee D'Aniello for a booking for a player not retreating ten yards, the ball was delivered to Sumbul who had his shot saved by Gal. Krnecvic went down after being bumped by Acevski as they challenged for a Visevic cross from the left.

Petrevski had his shot from a sharp turn in the eighty-seventh minute turned around the post for a corner. From the set-piece Gal was fouled. Play still flowed from end to end, finally coming to an end when Uskok volleyed a partially cleared cross over the bar in the third minute of stoppage time.

Hume dropped points for the first time this season, but could be pleased with the result given their injury toll. A point to Richmond will most likely keep them in the Top Five after the completion of the round.

Richmond will be at home again next Friday, with a clash against Sunshine Georgies. On Sunday it will be another near top of the table clash for Hume City, as they face Oakleigh Cannons at Broadmeadows Valley Park.



Fonzi Opazo finds the back of the net and pulls Hume City back on level terms.. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



High fives all round for Richmond Eagles scorer Jesse Krnecvic. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS

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ALTONA MAGIC

1

DANDENONG THUNDER

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Dandenong Thunder finally get that winning feeling after Noel Bahnsen opens the scoring. PHOTO BY DANIEL FLIS

# Honours even in GF replay

By Luke Sheehan

**Altona Magic and Dandenong Thunder have played at a 1-1 draw in their grand final rematch at Paisley Park Soccer Complex on Saturday night.**

A Noel Bahnsen opener gave Thunder the lead before Pece Siveski leveled from the penalty spot before half time.

Siveski said a last minute goal was denied, as first gamer for Altona Million Butshiire was offside when he tapped the ball into the open goal, despite Tony Saric's shot on goal heading towards the back of the net.

Stuart Munro said his side need to focus on scoring more goals, and that strength and confidence up front was lacking for the 2009 runners-up.

Siveski said Pece Cergovski had a couple of guilt-edged chances to score one-on-one with the keeper, but the Thunder stopper was able to deny him on both occasions.

Matthew Theodore played his first

game for the Magic, and Siveski was satisfied with the former Melbourne Victory player's output.

Altona travel to Heidelberg this Sunday at Olympic Village, who are coming off a 1-1 draw with Hellas, while the Thunder host the Bentleigh Greens, who have been pointless in their last two Premier League clashes.

Munro said after the match, "I felt we started the game quite well, and especially after four defeats it was important for us to regain some confidence."

"I thought the penalty was a bit soft, but that's probably indicative of the position we're in at the moment."

"I feel very confident we can get some wins under our belt and start giving this league a shake. I'm happy we got something out of this match because in previous weeks because we've been creating chances but been caught out with sucker punches."

"It's just the way our season has been going and we had to play it tight at the back and build on that."



Action from the VPL grand final replay between Altona and Dandenong Thunder on Saturday night. PHOTO BY DANIEL FLIS



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**Match Details:**

**South Melbourne:**  
Peter Zois, Stiven Mrkela, Steve O'Dor, Daniel Vasilevski, James Stefanou (Eddie Cetkin 46'), Carl Recchia, Gianni De Nittis, Rama Tavsancioglu, Marinos Gasparis (Fernando De Moraes 60'), Sebastian Petrovic, Joe Keenan (Yusuf Yusuf 75')  
(Scorer: Carl Recchia 91')

**Heidelberg United:**  
Steven Tilovski, John Lazaridis, Sayeedreza Hossaini (Kurt Crnic 61'), Paul Miller, Yanni Galanos, Hrvoje Matkovic, Josip Kozic, Hamid Basma (Saso Alexovski 77'), Luke Byles (Melo Junior 45'), Craig Elvin, Osagie Ederaro  
(Scorer: Hamid Basma 42')

**Venue:** Bob Jane Stadium  
**Date:** Sunday 11th April 2010  
**Crowd:** 3,000

# Derby draw farewells BJS

By John Kyrou

South Melbourne FC has fought out a 1-1 draw against Heidelberg United in the final derby at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday. An injury-time header by Carl Recchia cancelled out Hamid Basma's opening goal for the away side and maintained South's undefeated record in the VPL in 2010.

The home side went into the game desperate for a League win over the Bergers for the first time since 2006. The signs early in the match pointed to a South win as the home team created chances through Marinos Gasparis and Daniel Vasilevski; however Steven Tilovski in the Heidelberg goal was up to the task. The best chance for South came from Gianni De Nittis, who beat the offside trap and found himself one-on-one with Tilovski; however the young forward hit his shot straight at the custodian.

Heidelberg had at times looked dangerous through the presence of Osagie Ederaro up front. Ederaro had been continually shut down by the South defence but almost scored when a failed clearance by the South defence fell to him. Ederaro's quick shot dribbled just wide of South keeper Peter Zois' near post, keeping the sides level.

Shortly before halftime, the Bergers managed to open the scoring. Another failed clearance by the South defence

resulted in a shot from outside the area. Zois managed to parry the shot well but the ball unfortunately fell perfectly for Basma to tap home.

In the second half, South acting coach David Lugli made changes by introducing Fernando De Moraes and Yusuf Yusuf into the match. The substitutions were effective as South began to get on top of their Heidelberg opponents; however despite the possession the home side could not muster many goal scoring opportunities. Recchia found some space on the edge of the area but was unable to keep his shot under the crossbar, whilst De Moraes had a half-hearted penalty appeal rejected.

With the match ticking into injury time, a free kick from midfield was floated into the penalty area. Centre-back Steve O'Dor's header fell to Recchia at the back post. Tilovski had rushed off his line to try and collect the ball and as a result Recchia lifted his header over the custodian and into the back of the net, collecting what the home side will see as a very important point against their old rivals.

South Melbourne FC travels to Somers Street next Sunday to face another old rival in the Melbourne Knights, with the match kicking off at 3pm. At the same time, Heidelberg hosts Altona Magic at the Olympic Village.



Goimg into the match as underdogs, Heidelberg does the derby thing and takes the lead through Hamid Basma.  
PHOTO: ANITA MILAS



Goal mouth action between South Melbourne and Heidelberg United, as Bergers' keeper Stiven Tilovski takes a save. PHOTO: ANITA MILAS





SUNSHINE GEORGIES



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NORTHCOTE CITY



0

Match Details:

Sunshine George Cross line up: Martin John, Steve Beck, Fidell Richards (Evan Christodoulou 71), George Papadopoulos (Ben Cogger 53), Stuart Nicholson, Chris Konstas, Doug Cameron, Kyle Joryeff, Barry Devlin, James Blackburn (Andrew Nabbout 63) Luke Grounds.

Northcote City line up: Christopher Theodoriris-Petropoulos, Adriano Chia-petta, Bradley Norton, George Papadopoulos, Nick Curtis, Harry Kinigopoulos, Hayden D'Agostino, Paul Retre, Nick Tzoulis (Eddie Soares 78), Jim Archimandretis (Trent Rixon 60), James Voulgaris (James Kalifitidis 71).

# Georgies back on winner's list

After two successive defeats Sunshine George Cross bounced back to the winners circle with a close 1-0 defeat of Northcote City on Sunday night.

The winning goal for the Georgies was scored in the 80th minute from substitute Ben Cogger who celebrated his first goal for the club with great joy. Cogger was first to re-act to a long free kick from Luke Grounds from well inside the Georgies half of the ground.

The ball glanced off the head of a Northcote defender with Cogger running into the penalty area to slip the ball past the Northcote keeper. The Georgies held the upper hand throughout this contest, but both teams failed to get any cohesion in attack. Sunshine dropped midfielder Barry Devlin into defence in place of Michael Sacks who was released by the club during the week. Matthew Cini and Trent Waterson had to sit out this match after failing to get over their injuries. Northcote's striker Trent Rixon was fit but coach Peter Tsolakis decided to play him off the bench.

The first half was a non event with defenders well on top and neither keeper being seriously tested. The highlight of a poor quality first half was the run and centre by Kyle Joryeff from the left that James Blackburn headed narrowly over the bar. Blackburn went close again just before the break with his header once again going over the bar.

The standard improved in the second half with the home team pushing forward at every opportunity and Northcote quite happy to sit back and absorb the pressure. Both coaches went to the bench with Trent Rixon coming on for Northcote while the Georgies introduced youngsters Andrew Nabbout and



Action from last night's late game between Sunshine Georgies and Northcote City. PHOTO: DANIEL FLIS

Evan Christodoulou.

Northcote seemed content with a point but were punished when the Georgies took the lead with only 10 minutes remaining.

Sunshine had a great opportunity to make it 2-0 when striker Stuart Nicholson burst through but his shot was saved by Christopher Theodoriris-Petropoulos. Northcote came out of their shell in the final 10 minutes and for the first time in the match looked threatening.

The visitors had a golden opportunity to draw level at the 90th minute mark Northcote cut open the Georgies defence. The build up play left Trent Rixon one on one with Martin John, but the Georgie keeper came out on top with a great save. The Georgies were relieved to hear the final whistle and earn 3 valuable points, while Northcote must be rueing the approach they adopted for long periods in this game. This coming Friday Sunshine George Cross travels

to Kevin Bartlett Reserve to face the inform Richmond. the game kicks off at 8.30. Northcote is also away when they face Green Gully at Green Gully Reserve on Saturday at 3.00.



VPL Standings Round 5

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
Hume City	6	5	1	0	14	5	13
Oakleigh Cannons	6	3	2	1	9	7	11
Richmond	6	3	1	2	10	9	10
South Melbourne	6	2	4	0	11	8	10
Bentleigh Greens	6	2	2	2	6	7	8
Sunshine Georgies	6	2	2	2	8	9	8
Northcote City	6	2	1	3	8	8	7
Altona Magic	6	1	3	2	5	5	6
Green Gully Cavaliers	6	2	0	4	10	11	6
Melbourne Knights	6	2	2	2	11	10	5
Dandenong Thunder	6	1	1	4	4	13	4
Heidelberg Utd	6	0	3	3	10	14	0

VPL Round 6

N.T.C v Melbourne Knights	
Knights Stadium	
Wed 14 Apr KO 8:30PM	
Richmond v Sunshine Georgies	
Kevin Bartlett Reserve	
Fri 16 Apr KO 8:30PM	
Green Gully Cavaliers v Northcote City	
Green Gully Reserve	
Sat 17 Apr KO 3:00PM	
Dandenong Thunder v Bentleigh Greens	
George Andrews Reserve	
Sat 17 Apr KO 7:00PM	
Heidelberg Utd v Altona Magic	
Olympic Village	
Sun 18 Apr KO 3:00PM	
Melbourne Knights v South Melbourne	
Knights Stadium	
Sun 18 Apr KO 3:00PM	
Hume City v Oakleigh Cannons	
Broadmeadows Valley Park	
Sun 18 Apr KO 3:00PM	

VPL Under 21s

	P	W	D	L	F	A	GD	Pt
N.T.C	7	4	2	1	26	11	14	14
South Melbourne	7	4	2	1	14	10	14	14
Oakleigh Cannons	6	4	1	1	18	9	13	13
Richmond	6	4	0	2	16	9	12	12
Bentleigh Greens	7	4	0	3	14	12	12	12
Northcote City	6	3	1	2	18	14	10	10
Sunshine Georgies	5	2	1	2	8	8	7	7
Dandenong Thunder	6	1	3	2	7	13	6	6
Hume City	5	2	2	1	10	8	5	5
Heidelberg Utd	6	2	1	3	11	12	4	4
Green Gully Cavaliers	7	1	1	5	7	26	4	4
Altona Magic	7	0	2	5	5	18	2	2
Melbourne Knights	5	0	2	3	4	8	-1	1
Oakleigh Cannons 1 Melbourne Knights 1, Bentleigh Greens 2 Green Gully Cavaliers 1, Richmond 2 Hume City 3, Altona Magic 1 Dandenong Thunder 1, South Melbourne 1 Heidelberg Utd 0,								



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